



The Task of the EHLF is "To ensure that improved and timely information on the development and consequences of legal acts developed by the European Union which may pose a potential threat to cultural heritage are conveyed to the national competent authorities."¹

EXPERIENCE REPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE LEGAL FORUM (EHLF)



**TO THE 7TH EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM.
BERLIN, POTSDAM, 24-25 MAY 2012.**

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE EU LEVEL?

- Legal acts passed in Brussels create a number of major problems
- The European Treaty contains articles that should vouchsafe for the special needs of cultural heritage management.
- Legislation intended for other sectors
- Need EU legislative texts allowing for specific heritage considerations,
- CH has no official 'place' in the institutionalised EU-system. Is forgotten?

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL?

- EU legislation not applicable to cultural heritage. Considerations should be made when transposing into national legislation; exemptions? Lack of knowledge?
- EU legislative texts allowing for specific heritage considerations are operationalized by responsible sector authorities. Are heritage authorities consulted?
- Solutions acceptable for heritage management are often seen as creating conflicts with other sector policies (Ministries).
- Little work experience across the policy sectors, no tradition participating process of incorporating into national law (hearing and commenting legislation).

EXPERIENCES FROM WORKING TOGETHER.

- In concert, it is easier to be taken into consideration.
- **EU system**, at the case handler and management level, is positive to the needs of the heritage sector.
 - Need to be at the right place at the right time.
 - Have a legitimate argument
 - Invest time and work in EHLF Secretariat.
 - “The ‘Form’ works.”
- At the **national level** things are more complex
 - Cooperation supplies good arguments at national level.
- New DG Culture **cultural heritage strategy**. Window of opportunity?.
 - Can EHLF play a role?

HOW TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITY?

- Need to know when what is happening.
- Need to be present, to present legitimate well-argued demands and to cooperate.
- Need capacity to constructively assist again and again.
- The objective is to institutionalise EU responsibility for cultural heritage;
- to make ch considerations a permanent criteria in the working process.
- To achieve a permanent and organised presence!

CONCLUSIONS.

To repeat this again and again,
to achieve a permanent and organised
presence.

- **HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARDS ON THIS ISSUE?**

HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARDS ON THIS ISSUE?

E N D.