

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The 4th meeting of the EHHF in Bratislava and Vienna in May 2009 concludes with the following:

A FUTURE MEETINGS

At the last meeting it was agreed that the next host countries would be France (2010) and the Netherlands (2011). We **welcome** Germany as the host country for 2012 and Belgium for 2013.

It was **agreed** that the Secretariat would consist of the previous hosts (Austria & Slovakia), the next two hosts (France and the Netherlands) and the UK.

We **recall** that the Secretariat will be responsible for the organisation of annual meetings, circulation of information to EHHF members, following-up actions agreed by the EHHF, maintaining the EHHF website and upholding the original purpose for the informal meeting of the heads of the heritage agencies of Europe to:

- Exchange experience, ideas and best practice
- Strengthen and support existing networks dealing with heritage and tourism
- Carry out specific agreed actions

B DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

We were **encouraged** by the participation in Bratislava of European Commissioner Jan Figel and his commitment to continue, and strengthen, the dialogue between the European Commission Directorate for Education and Culture (DG-EAC) and the EHHF membership in the future.

We **request** that the Secretariat contact DG-EAC on behalf of the EHHF membership and recall the discussions in Bratislava and Vienna regarding the concern raised by the inadvertent negative impact that European directives can have on heritage protection.

C ROLE OF HERITAGE IN ECONOMIC RECESSION

We **recognise** the value of heritage as an economic driver and **adopt** the statement on the heritage stimulus in a time of economic crisis (attached).

D CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

We **recall** the proposal to establish a network to share experience and expertise in addressing the key challenges in this area and our support of the charter for careful energy improvements of historic buildings, as agreed in Copenhagen in 2008.

We **request** that the Secretariat follow-up this action with Denmark and report back to the next meeting (2010).