

EUROPEAN  
HERITAGE  
HEADS  
FORUM

18-20 May 2016

**SWITZERLAND**



## Dear Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to Bern for the EHHF annual meeting of 2016. The EHHF is a unique opportunity during the year for us to gather to debate and exchange views on the current situation, on politics, and on questions of cultural heritage within the European Union and the EFTA Countries, and to reinforce our personal links. The great added-value of our meetings lies in the informality of our debates, allowing free and open discussion, in addition there is the particular spirit that comes from the fact that we are among ourselves and our guests. Our discussions are thus subject to the Chatham House Rule.

For some years now, cultural heritage has seemed to benefit from increased political attention at European level, and even globally. Multilateral policy highlights its importance to society and the intrinsic link that exists between sustainable development, respect for human rights, and heritage protection. Thus the European Commission declared in 2014: "Old approaches sought to protect heritage by isolating it from daily life. New approaches focus on making it fully part of the local community. Sites are given a second life and meaning that speak to contemporary needs and concerns." Is this true or false? Are "classic" approaches to heritage management really outdated? And what does this imply for the work we do? What exactly are the new approaches? What opportunities, chances, but also risks does it present? Or to put it differently: is there a gap between the rhetoric of heritage policy and the actual challenges faced in the field, and if so, how should we react?

Concrete topics will be debated in Bern from this angle: the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st Century is currently under development within the framework of the Council of Europe – what will be its future impact and how will it be implemented? The European Cultural Heritage Year, proposed for 2018 under the title "Sharing Heritage", could present an opportunity to promote heritage and its protection. At the same time, the intentional destruction of cultural heritage has become a reality in the conflicts within the Arab world: how do we engage with each other to help out in this crisis?

Good work requires a good setting: the meeting will take place in the Bellevue Palace Hotel, a traditional place for discussions and debates, situated at the centre of federal Bern. Visits are planned in Bern on the afternoon of your arrival; on Thursday evening we will be on the banks of Lake Thun, where I hope that the weather will be kind to us and that the Alpine panorama will charm you. Finally, on Friday afternoon, for those who wish, we will visit Lavaux Vineyard Terraces, a world heritage site since 2007 and the exemplar for numerous questions related to heritage management.

Welcome to Bern and looking forward to seeing you all in Switzerland!

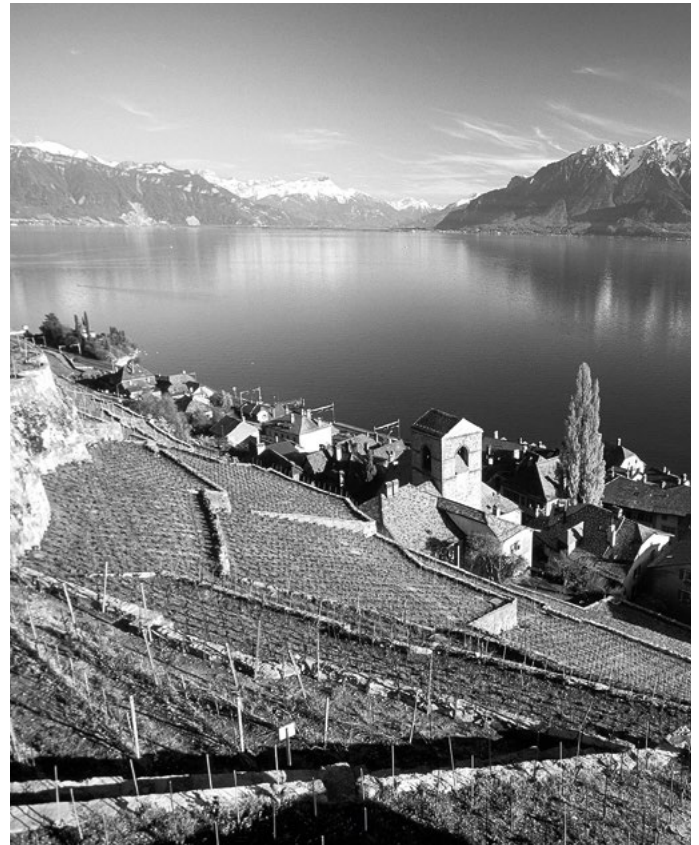
### Dr. Oliver Martin

Head of Section Cultural Heritage,  
Swiss Federal Office of Culture



**The Lavaux vineyard landscape** is a thriving cultural landscape that demonstrates in a highly visible way its evolution and development over almost a millennia, through the well preserved landscape and buildings, and also the continuation and adaptation of longstanding cultural traditions, specific to its locality. It also illustrates very graphically the story of patronage, control and protection of this highly valued wine growing area, all of which contributed substantially to the development of Lausanne and its Region and played a significant role in the history of the geo-cultural region; and, has prompted, in response to its vulnerability next to fast-growing settlements, exceptional popular protection.

©Régis Colombo



# Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

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Venue: Bellevue Palace, Bern

**16:30** Visits in Bern for those already arrived  
Option 1: Parliament Building  
Option 2: Tour of the Old Town of Bern

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**19:30** **Welcome Reception, Official Opening** at Erlacherhof by invitation of the City of Bern, in the presence of Mr. Alexander Tschöpätt, Mayor of the City of Bern, and Ms. Isabelle Chassot, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture

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**20:30** Light Dinner in a restaurant nearby

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# Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May

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Venue: Bellevue Palace, Bern

**08:30** **Registration**

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**09:00** **Introduction, practical informations**

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**09:30** **Keynotes**

**Political discourse and Realpolitik in Europe:**

**New approaches – old approaches**

*Bénédicte Selfslagh, consultant for cultural heritage, Belgium*

Plenary Discussion.

**Concrete European actions: Current state of discussion**

- European Strategy for Cultural Heritage (*Gianluca Silvestrini, Council of Europe*)

- European Cultural Heritage Year (*Uwe Koch, Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Denkmalschutz*)

- Heritage destruction in conflict and crisis (*Paul Fox, UK National Committee of the Blue Shield*)

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**11:00** **Coffee break**

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**11:30** **Group Discussions**

1 - European Heritage Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

2 - European Cultural Heritage Year

3 - Heritage and Conflict

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**13:00** **Lunch**

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**14:30** **Feedback from Group Discussions**

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**15:00** **Exchange and discussions with intergovernmental organisations I**

- UNESCO: *Mechtild Rössler, Director of Heritage Division and Director of the World Heritage Centre*

- ICCROM: *Stefano de Caro, Director General*

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**16:30** **Coffee Break**

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**17:00** **Exchange and discussions with intergovernmental organisations II**

- Council of Europe: *Gianluca Silvestrini, Head of the Managing Diversity Division*

- EU Commission: *Erminia Sciacchitano, Policy Officer for DG EAC*

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**19:30** Departure by bus to Thun

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**20:00** **Official Dinner at Schloss Schadau, Thun**

With the participation of Federal Councillor Mr. Alain Berset, member of the Swiss government, and Ms. Isabelle Chassot, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture

## PROGRAMME

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# Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Venue: *Bellevue Palace, Bern*

## 09:00 Plenary

European Heritage Legal Forum/Economic Taskforce reports

## 10:00 Own Matters: what type of EHHF do we want?

Results and follow-up of the online consultation. Future organisation and funding of services and secretariat.

Chair: *Oliver Martin, Head for Switzerland*

## 11:30 News from the heads

Communication of new developments and relevant issues by the heads

## 12:45 EHHF Meeting in 2017: Iceland Troika handover

## 13:00 Official closing of meeting

## 13:00 Lunch

## OPTIONAL

**14:30** Departure by bus to Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces.  
World Heritage Site.

**16:00** Guided walking tour through the vineyard and discussion of different heritage management issues.

**17:30** Cellar visit and wine tasting at a winegrower in Epesses.

**19:00** End of visit around Vevey, dinner.

**23:00** Overnight stay in Hotel Astra, Vevey.

# BERN



 Erlacherhof

 Train Station

 Parliament Building

 Bellevue Palace

## HOTEL and meeting place

Bellevue Palace, Bern [www.bellevue-palace.ch](http://www.bellevue-palace.ch)

Hotel rooms are pre-booked for all participants (special rate).

## Arrival

Arriving by air, you will reach Bern best by flying to Zürich (ZRH), Basel (BSL) or Geneva (GVA), from where you have regular and easy train connections to Bern (timetable: [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)). Bern Airport (BRN) is usually not an option, as there are only few direct flights. Please note that an optional field visit will be organised on Friday afternoon, ending in the area of Montreux-Vevey-Lausanne, from where the closest airport is Geneva (GVA).

# Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Individual return to ZRH/GVA/BSL

## Contact person

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## Host



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

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## Websites

[www.ehhf.eu](http://www.ehhf.eu) | [www.bak.admin.ch](http://www.bak.admin.ch)

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