

## Editorial



Dear readers, dear friends,

Another year is coming to an end, and what a year it has been! 2013 has seen continuity in our representation endeavours at the EU level, on our main priorities such as energy efficiency, biodiversity, tourism, and so on; but it has also seen new successes and inspiring moments.

Only a few weeks ago, our General Assembly, an annual meeting of our members' representatives, was held in Brussels, "capital of Europe". We would like to give special thanks to the Belgian Historic Houses and Gardens Association for their continued support and help in organising the events. Here, fresh ideas and innovative inputs were developed to protect and promote Europe's private cultural heritage, also providing our Association with a new impetus of inspiration and support in our advocacy work within both the EU and national associations. Furthermore, this memorable event marked the first steps of a new European Historic Houses direction, implemented in 2013, to involve the younger generation of entrepreneurs and successors, who will bring fresh ideas, anew dynamism and initiative to the Association.

The Association is also trying to deepen its emphasis on gardens and parks, which are essential not only for the sustainability of historic houses, but also contribute immensely to the preservation of biodiversity and the promotion of healthier environments. These issues are key for the EU, as well as the Member States, at a critical time of climate change and heavy pollution throughout Europe.

With the closing of the year comes the promise of new challenges and issues to be highlighted and defended in Brussels. The European Historic Houses Association strives to be as involved as possible in these deliberations ensuring concrete results for our members and to ensure that culture and private heritage are not cast aside in a time where economics and politics are prioritized.

We hope you enjoy this new edition and thank you deeply for your continued support and attention.

Best regards,

Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem  
Executive President



## A new website is born!

We are very excited to announce the official launch of our new website, [www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu), which took place on September 3rd. Easier to navigate, colourful and updated regularly, this website is a very important platform for us to have visibility and to inform on our Association's activities and the issues we defend at the EU level, as well as with our member Associations at the national level.



# European Historic Houses Association's 2013 General Assembly

The European Historic Houses Association held its Annual event from the 26th to the 29th of September 2013. It was an event of great magnitude, essential for the continuity and the efficiency of the Association, where many issues were widely discussed and debated over the course of the weekend. The General Assembly of Governors with representatives of our member Associations tackled the main issues common to all and an extensive presentation of each country's situation was made. This major meeting was then followed by a high-level Conference on "Developing business models to meet the challenges of the 21st century". Set in the beautiful building of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU, numerous participants listened to speakers from diverse backgrounds, who passionately gave us a glimpse of their experience and ideas on how to protect cultural heritage and historic houses in today's changing environment. The first panel was dedicated to "the place of private cultural heritage in the EU", while the second panel tackled practical examples of the theme "What economic and business models are available for historic houses?". The day ended with a

grand Gala dinner at Salon du Coudenberg, where we had the privilege of having HRH Prince Lorenz of Belgium as our guest of honour. Finally, our members were treated with two days of visits to historic houses in the Provinces of Namur and of the Brabant Wallon. Owners warmly welcomed us into their homes, from Vêves Castle, to Scy "Sanssouci" Castle, Haltinne Castle, Flawinne Castle, Jodoigne-Souveraine Castle and the Abbey of La Ramée. It was a highly memorable experience and a great success to be carried into the future.

We would like to give special thanks to the Belgian Historic Houses and Gardens Association for their continued support and help in organising the events, as well as their active participation throughout.

For a detailed program of the Conference, photos and articles on the event, please visit our website at [www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu).

**THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY INVOLVED!**



# European Survey Campaign on the management of historic houses

Earlier this year, the European Historic Houses Association created a questionnaire that was then sent to our member Associations, to be redistributed to their members (representing 50'000 private houses in total). The objective was to gain useful knowledge on the ups and downs of managing an historic house, and on various aspects such as economic, fiscal, social, environmental and security.

The campaign is still in full swing: if you are a private

owner of an historic house and you wish to contribute to help us better represent you at the EU level, we invite you to consult our website at [www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu) and fill out the questionnaire (FR/EN).

Please send the completed questionnaire by email to the following address [president@europeanhistorichouses.eu](mailto:president@europeanhistorichouses.eu), or by post at Rue de Trèves 67, 1000 Brussels.



## Upcoming events

- CO<sup>2</sup>OLBricks Results and Joint Declaration Signing Conference, Hamburg (Germany) - December 3rd 2013,
- Forum for Agriculture (FFA), SQUARE, Brussels – April 1st, 2014
- European Historic Houses' Annual Meeting, Portugal – 3rd to 5th of October 2014

## Our new Governors!

We are happy to welcome Mr Richard COMPTON (UK), from the Historic Houses Association, Mrs. Marina DESERTI (Italy), from the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane, Mr. Alexander KOTTUNLINSKY (Austria), President of the Österreichischer Burgenverein, and Mrs Martina SCHEPER GIL (Spain), from the Associació de Castells i Edificis Catalogats de Catalunya. We very much look forward to benefit from their fresh ideas and inputs on the protection and promotion Europe's private heritage.

The European Historic Houses is a European association, based in Brussels, acting as the voice of private historic houses in Europe and defending the interests of their owners. Its work is aimed towards major issues linked to cultural heritage such as environmental issues (PPP Directive), fiscal issues (reduced VAT on restoration and maintenance work to historic monuments), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and security issues (theft, keeping and illicit trafficking of cultural goods). The Association brings together 19 national associations from 16 European countries, and 3 observer country, and represents more than 50,000 historic houses in Europe.

## European Historic Houses Association

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