

Environment

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

While the European Union, politicians and citizens increasingly turn their attention towards the environment and protection of biodiversity, many do not realize the significant role that owners of historic houses and estates play in favor of this issue. Indeed, as a noteworthy percentage of historic houses are located in rural areas and on estates set in various landscapes, owners often practice sustainable management of their lands through forestry and agriculture, putting into place measures that are vital for the preservation of biodiversity. These estates also often have magnificent gardens and parks that attract countless visitors for their beauty and the natural serenity they provide. But they also attract all kinds of wildlife, animals, and insects, including the precious wild bee. Indeed, gardens are amongst the primary reasons that tourists are incited to visit an estate.

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

In 2013, The European Historic Houses put a lot of effort into the follow-up and lobbying on the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. We followed the proposal amending Directive 2011/92/EU (on the assessment of the effects that certain public and private projects have on the environment) with our real estate partners. We were careful to point out the elements that could impact on the sense of entrepreneurship of historic houses owners, who would like to engage and invest in new projects. Since submitting our common position with EPF, ELO, the European Group of Valuers' Associations (TEGoVA) and UIPI, we have successfully passed on our message to both the Council and the European Parliament.

Particularly gratifying is the extent to which our concepts and interests were discussed between the European institutions (mainly the European Commission and the European Parliament from the outset). All in all, we have contributed many positive changes to the final version of this text.

The new Directive has been officially published in all EU languages*. Its transposition into national law is to be completed by 16 May 2017.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2014:124:TOC>

New ELO research project: HERCULES



Sustainable Futures for Europe's Heritage in Cultural Landscapes, commonly known as HERCULES, is a 3-year project funded by the EU's 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration, in which the ELO is one of 13 partners involved. The project aims at promoting sustainable management and good landscape practices through public and private cooperation, as these cultural landscapes offer tremendous value with their contribution to Europe's historical and natural heritage, with their aesthetic and recreational scenery, as well as the ecosystem services they provide. However, these landscapes are subject to the dangers generated by increased rural abandonment, intensification of land-use, and urbanisation. Developed around nine regional study landscapes, the HERCULES project will result in the elaboration of a set of landscape policy recommendations at EU level, which will provide policy makers and practitioners with up-to-date information to guide effective decision-making on how to protect heritage in cultural landscapes.



Environment

The European Historic Houses was involved in the first HERCULES' EU Level Stakeholder Workshop that took place on the 23rd May, entitled "European Cultural Landscapes at a Crossroad". We presented the vision of the cultural heritage sector and acknowledged that landscapes formed a vital part of the EU natural heritage.

For more information, please refer to the HERCULES website
www.hercules-landscapes.eu

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ASPECTS

Contrary to a popular belief that historic house are big energy consumers, this type of private heritage was actually built for continuity, and the fact that these houses have already, in many cases, withstood centuries indicates that their long-term sustainability can be better than that of modern buildings. It is in the interest of owners to limit their energy consumption. Indeed, it represents an important cost in the management of such houses, especially considering the investment needed for renovation works.

The historic houses can thus play an important part in ensuring the attainment of the European Union's 2020 energy consumption target of a 20% reduction.

In order to improve their energy efficiency however, it is necessary to consider historic buildings on a specific case-by-case basis, at a national level and in concordance with heritage conservation laws.

In a Communication* to the other institutions, the Commission has issued its policy framework for climate and energy for the period 2020 to 2030. There are plans for a 40% GHG emission reduction target and a renewables target of 27% by 2030, but no energy efficiency target pending for buildings.

* Communication from the commission to the European parliament, the council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 , COM/2014/015 final





Environment

In July 2013, our coalition with the *European Landowners' Organization* (ELO), *European Property Federation* (EPF) and the *International Union of Property Owners* (UIP) sent a response to the European **Commission's Green Paper on the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies – COM(2013) 169 final**. We chose to send a letter to the Energy Commissioner Oettinger, defending the position that “a legally binding overall target for energy efficiency/intensity” will be a positive step, but asked that “no more detailed energy efficiency building or renovation requirements” be imposed.

We expressed our concerns on three main aspects:

- 1) By definition and inevitably, policy on energy efficiency of the built environment is extremely invasive to the lives of citizens: choices on who amongst landlords and tenants foots the bill for what; specific renovation or appliance-replacement obligations; planning decisions concerning population densities, etc. This does not mean that such policies are not necessary; it means that they require democratic debate and decision at national and even local levels
- 2) EU building legislation can and should be regularly reviewed, refined and improved, but more detailed energy efficiency building or renovation requirements are not suited to the EU level of government.
- 3) Access to finance is also a key aspect and the Green paper failed to address it properly.

This important engagement of the coalition has put us in a good position to influence and discuss at an early stage with all levels of the European Commission. This is a great achievement, having secured that the Coalition will be a particularly privileged partner of the European Commission on this matter.

The European Historic Houses will be also particularly vigilant on the **future review of the EPBD and EED Directives**. The Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19th May 2010, requires all member states to set minimum energy performance standards according to types of building.

It is worth mentioning that after two years of work and announcements **the Commission Communication on “Sustainable Buildings” COM (2014) 445** has been published on the 1st of July 2014 as part of a larger package of proposals. In 2013, we were at the forefront as we wrote a letter to the DG Environment, the one responsible for drafting the consultation, showing that we put into question the necessity of such consultation and that the notion of sustainable buildings is too vague and going beyond what we can ask from our private owners. We are still vigilant as the Commission is looking now more and more beyond energy efficiency into subjects such as water usage, construction materials and waste. Together with the Coalition, we will be present in resource efficiency expert groups to raise our concerns.



EUROPEAN
HISTORIC HOUSES



From voice to action

Towards a European Historic Houses' project

The European Historic Houses, growing year after year in influence and size, intends to reach a new level of activity by taking part in the construction and implementation of an EU project. Conscious that today our voice can be strengthened through participation in concrete and proactive projects, we have decided to engage in the process of obtaining EU funds. Our aim is to promote and improve the undeniable socio-economic value of private historic houses in the EU, as well as to enhance the touristic attractiveness of houses, gardens and their surrounding environment, often located in remote areas. Indeed, historic houses across Europe, no matter their size or location, are an outstanding symbol of Europe's history and identity. They must be discovered and preserved for future generations, so that their beauty can be admired and their memory maintained.

Leading such a project relies on strong commitment and long-term effort, requiring consolidation of partnerships and securing financial resources. The European Historic Houses Association may have a small team and few financial resources, but we are driven by our cause and strongly motivated to take up such a project with our partners. Historic houses account for a significant part of Europe's history and identity, but they are also thriving SMEs, creating local jobs, and maintaining specific crafts that simply cannot be outsourced.

The Creative Europe programme, supported by DG Culture, could be an opportunity for heritage and creative industries to get stronger recognition and the financial means to carry out significant projects.

Even though we can speak of a momentum of cultural heritage nowadays, with more and more Europeans taking notice of Europe's heritage, it remains a sector in dire need of support from bodies such as the European institutions. Notwithstanding the crucial financial asset provided by the new European Funds, other possibilities exist for heritage to gain much needed visibility amongst civil society and politicians from programmes such as Horizon 2020, funds related to tourism, regions and Erasmus+. The European Historic Houses Association is delighted to see this growing recognition of the cultural sector in the EU, and we will strive to harness this momentum to the profit of private historic houses across Europe.

The European Historic Houses Association is carefully scrutinizing all available options at the EU level. We hope that 2015 will herald our active participation in an EU funded project. We invite all our members to share and propose their innovative projects to public authorities and other organisations that could support them in their actions.

Involving the younger generation

The younger generation represents a new way forward for the European Historic Houses Association. As the Association is expanding in size and influence, we cannot fail to include the generation that will one day take over the management and protection of historic houses across Europe. These successors are often young entrepreneurs who bring fresh ideas, opinions, initiative, and a new dynamism to an organisation that has to constantly adapt in order to stay current and relevant.

One idea, discussed at the 2012 General Assembly and made more concrete during the 2013 General Assembly, is that the European Historic Houses Association should involve these actors in the decision-making process. This involves creating a role for the participation of a young representative alongside the national Association's Governor. It is highly important to involve young successors as much as possible.

Their participation in the Association will allow them to realise the importance and value of the tasks ahead, as well as arming them with the knowledge to gradually perfect the management of their houses.

We believe that their participation should add a lot of value, as do future owners from our Association – their involvement is mutually beneficial. Managing a historic house is a privilege, but a one that comes with many challenges. Knowledge, support and exchange is a very positive element of bringing together the younger generation, allowing them to share experiences with their peers from across Europe as well as with people who have years of experience.

As such, the European Historic Houses Association, in collaboration with young motivated successors, having a dynamic Head William Cartwright-Hignett from the UK, and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese members, is in the process of setting up a "Young Generation" group that will act under the umbrella of our Association. Their involvement is also a good opportunity to approach politicians and stakeholders, who are increasingly interested in the youth's voice. Thus, we can move forward with a positive outlook for the future of historic houses.



Membership enlargement

Welcoming Greece, Norway and Latvia

The European Historic Houses Association is particularly delighted to have been approached by three national Associations, *Elliniki Etairia* from Greece *Fredet* from Norway, and Latvian Castles & Manor Houses Association to join our membership in 2014. The new members will enhance our Association's reach and will give our voice a stronger resonance at the EU level. We are happy that these new partnerships with Greece, Norway and Latvia will raise the number of European countries covered by the European Historic Houses Association to 24. In return, these Associations will be able to access a large pan-European network, becoming part of a platform of information exchange on the best practices. They will also have access to advice opportunity to exchange opinions on issues directly linked with our priorities and goals, and will receive guidance on specific matters related to EU legislation. At the time of printing, we are still formalizing their membership through a vote of the Governors, which will take place at the General Assembly 2014; but, we are already very enthusiastic to start working with these prominent organizations.

GREECE



ELLINIKI ETAIRIA
Society for the Environment
and Cultural Heritage

Elliniki Etairia, Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, is a Greek association protecting the country's private and public cultural heritage, which has been active for over 40 years. Elliniki Etairia has also been a member of Europa Nostra since 1972.

In 2012, the Society received the European Citizen Award (Civi Europaeo Praemium), an Award given by the European Parliament to recognise "significant dedication to the promotion of a better mutual understanding and integration amongst the citizens of European countries". We are particularly honoured that Elliniki Etairia has shown interest in joining the European Historic Houses Association, as Greece represents the roots of Europe's cultural heritage and history.

NORWAY



Fredet is a new organisation, established in 2006, which defends private owners of historic houses and cultural goods under the Cultural Heritage Law. Composed of 220 members, the Association supports and promotes the owner-interest of private houses and buildings, ensuring protection against Norwegian state authorities' legislation.

LATVIA



After years of being an observer, the *Latvian Association of Castles and Manors* should become a full member in 2014. As such, they will have the right to vote and to take part in all the decisions that are adopted during the European Historic Houses' General Assembly. We will also closely follow the EU legislation directly affecting Latvia and regularly inform our new member.

CHAPTER 2

Events





EUROPEAN
HISTORIC HOUSES

General Assembly 2013 in Brussels

From September 26th to 29th 2013, the European Historic Houses Association, thanks to the Royal Association of Belgium Historic Houses, hosted its 33rd Annual General Assembly in Brussels, welcoming the Governors and representatives of its 19 member Associations and 3 observer countries. This 3-day event comprised of the General Assembly itself, a high level conference, a Gala dinner and two days of visits to historic houses in the Provinces of Namur and Brabant Walloon. It was a tremendous opportunity to exchange views on the aims and priorities of the Association and the various orientations undertaken for its future, as well as identifying innovative approaches to better defend Europe's cultural heritage.

Held at the Permanent Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU, a historic building in the heart of Brussels, formerly the Research Institute Pasteur created by Jules Bordet, the General Assembly provided an occasion for the President of the European Historic Houses Association, Comte Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem, to implement changes to the members of the Executive Committee and of the Board, as well as to assess the main actions that were undertaken by the Association in 2013. Notably, this included a discussion of the taxation issue, the illicit trafficking of cultural goods, and the energy and environmental issues. It was also the moment to present the priorities for the upcoming year, which are based on the



General Assembly 2013 in Brussels

General Assembly

involvement of the younger generation, the increase in the Association's visibility, the European elections, and the continuous search for sponsors. The roundtable of all national associations followed, allowing members to discuss the changes and challenges that countries are facing, as well as establishing the similarities and divergences of each case, and establishing a better awareness of the situation of historic houses across Europe.

The General Assembly was followed by a high-level conference focused on the timely subject of **"Developing business models to meet the challenges of the 21st century"**. The event gathered speakers from diverse backgrounds and fields, who discussed the importance of raising awareness of the specificities of private historic houses and their needs at all political and societal levels, with owners continuing to find themselves in difficult situations. Indeed, managing historic houses can be seen as both a blessing and a burden, as expressed by many speakers. The purpose of historic houses has to be redefined in order to implement new solutions that will protect them from being sold, abandoned or demolished, which is now too often the case. The participants also heard positive feedback from the European Commission, with the keynote speech of Mr. Eric PHILIPPART, Head of Unit for Tourism and Cultural Instruments in the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, as well as during the presentation of Mr. Karel BARTAK, Head of Unit of the Directorate General for Education and Culture. They both stressed the tremendous socio-economic impacts of culture for Europe, and reported that the Commission strongly supports cultural projects and stakeholders. Mr. PHILIPPART underlined that cultural tourism is vital to the European economy, whilst Mr. BARTAK provided practical information on the EU funds that will be available from 2014-2020 for culture and cultural

tourism. They stressed that culture will not be left behind on the new EU Agenda.

It was also helpful to have speakers presenting innovative and inspiring models of management for historic houses, as the Prince Louis-Albert de Broglie with its initiative of farming system demonstrating the wealth of possibilities available to owners. The diversity of speakers made for a very informative and useful conference.



General Assembly in Brussels, 2013

General Assembly



This fruitful day ended with a grand Gala Dinner in the Salon du Coudenberg, where we were delighted to welcome His Royal Highness Prince LORENZ of Belgium, as the guest of honour, who handed out the European Historic Houses 2013 Award to the Earl and Countess de LIEDEKERKE Beaufort, owners of Vêves Castle, for the impressive maintenance and renovations of the Castle over several generations.



Two days of visits to historic houses followed, starting on the first day with Vêves Castle, where the guests were welcomed with a tour of the fortress. We then visited Scy Sanssouci Castle, the splendid property of Mr. and Mrs. SPEECKAERT, for a tour and lunch, before continuing on to Haltinne Castle. Guests were greeted by Mr. LAMARCHE before enjoying a walk on the beautiful property. The day ended at Flawinne Castle, where the hosts, the Viscount and Viscountess de SPOELBERCH, impressed guests by presenting the vast restoration of the house and gardens.



Sunday's program started at Jodoigne-Sovereign Castle, where guests admired the work undertaken by the owners, the Earl and Countess de TRAUX DE WARDIN, to rebuild their house after a huge fire in 2000. Finally, we witnessed a phenomenal example of management of a historic property at the Abbey of La Ramée, owned by Mr. MORTELMANS. These three days were not only informative and essential for the continuity of our organisation, but also filled with unforgettable moments.

A very fruitful and interesting brainstorming meeting was organized with the members present just before our departure. It was a really good way to assess our future priorities for the year to come.

General Assembly in Brussels, 2013



Upcoming events

29th October – 1st November 2014, Halle, Germany

Future for Religious Heritage: "SUSTAINING EUROPE'S RURAL RELIGIOUS HERITAGE"

The vast majority of Europe's religious heritage is in the countryside. It is often hard to access physically as well as intellectually and suffers from underuse while the maintenance and conservation needs are high.

This conference will overlook a number of different viewpoints with the aim to better understand the values of rural religious heritage, both social and economic, as well as give inspiration to practitioners across Europe by promoting innovative models and ideas.

It will consider issues of demographic and geographic contexts of the heritage in larger society and smaller communities, audience development and accessibility to the public, fundraising and management of the buildings.

12th - 14th November 2014, Cracow, Poland

"LOOTED - RECOVERED: CULTURAL GOODS - THE CASE OF POLAND"

An international specialist conference on the subject of the fate of Polish cultural goods during World War II in the European context, highlighting the differences between the looting that occurred in Poland and Western Europe. The emphasis will be on plundering carried out by both the Germans and the Russians. After the political watershed in 1989 the question of restitution of cultural property returned to the arena. The primary aim of this conference is to showcase Polish experiences in the field of restitution in the context of other countries' approaches to the matter. For more information, please visit http://www.lootedart.com/web_images/pdf2014/SAVE%20THE%20DATE.pdf

23th – 25th October 2014, Rome, Italy

BOARD AND COUNCIL MEETING OF EUROPA NOSTRA

19th November 2014, London, United Kingdom

HHA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



CHAPTER 3

Communication



Communication

As one of the Association's priorities, communication has been increased significantly over the past months in order to improve our outreach. Visibility is essential when trying to spread our messages to a wider range of individuals, to catch the attention of people sharing the same passion and goals.

FACEBOOK

We have greatly increased our presence on Facebook, as this social media platform allows us to connect and follow many stakeholders in the cultural heritage fields. It gives us the opportunity to inform our followers of upcoming and past events, publish photos and articles, as well as allowing us to see what our members do in their countries. Do not hesitate to "Like" our pages and inform us of interesting and meaningful news happening in your organisations.



WEBSITE

www.europeanhistorichouses.eu

In September 2013, the European Historic Houses Association launched a new website intended to be more dynamic, with easier-to-access and up-to-date information. You can find all the latest News and articles published here. Information concerning our events is also available, as well as pictures and summaries post-occasion.



NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter informs our readers of our ongoing activities and is published between 2 and 4 times per year.

LEAFLET

In 2014, a new and improved leaflet was produced to better present, in a direct and simple form, the main objectives and issues targeted by the Association. If you wish to have some copies, do not hesitate to contact us.



William CARTWRIGHT-HIGNETT, "Discussion is a two-way street", Historic House, Winter 2013, p. 21.

Delphine DUPEUX, Andréanne LAFRANCE, "European Historic Houses Association's General Assembly in Brussels", Country Side, Sept-Oct 2013, p. 4-5.

Quentin DE BEAUFFORT, «L'Estonie, terre d'accueil des Demeures Historiques Européennes », Demeures historiques, no 187, p. 60-64.

Delphine DUPEUX, Louise VAN RIJCKEVORSEL, « Launching of the Program "The 7 Most Endangered Sites" », Country Side, 2013, p. 4-5.



* All the articles are available on our website

CHAPTER 4

Members



Our members

<p>AUSTRIA</p> 	<p>Österreichischer Burgenverein Earl Alexander Kottulinsky, President Karen Appleby, Sekretariat</p>	<p>Schloss 1 8292 Neudau Austria Tel : +43 338 333 291 Fax: +43 338 333 291 sekretariat@burgenverein.at</p>
<p>BELGIUM</p> 	<p>Association Royale des Demeures Historiques & Jardins de Belgique (ARDHJB) Baron Bernard de Gerlache de Gomery, President Baron Joseph de Dorlodot, Secretary General</p>	<p>Rue de Trèves, 67 B-1040 Bruxelles Tel: + 32 (0) 2 235.2007 Fax: +32 2 235 20 08 www.demeures-historiques.be administration@demeures- historiques.be</p>
<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p> 	<p>Czech Association of Castle and Manor House Owners Jana Germenisova- Hildprandt, President</p>	<p>Korunni,73 CZ- 130 00 Praha 2 Tel: +420 306 23 55 75 Fax: +420 383 40 01 51 zamek@blatna.cz</p>
<p>DENMARK</p> 	<p>Bygnings Frednings Foreningen (BYFO) Birthe Iuel, President Gitte Stisen, Secretariat</p>	<p>Borgergade 111 DK- 1300 København K Tel: +45 45 57 12 22 Fax: +45 45 57 10 11 www.byfo.dk // gs@byfo.dk sekretariat@byfo.dk</p>
<p>ESTONIA</p> 	<p>Estonian Manor Association Tõnis Kaasik, President</p>	<p>Pärnasalu 38, Saue EE-76505 Harjumaa Tel : +372 6 790 888 Fax: +372 6790889 www.manor.ee // info@manor.ee</p>
<p>FINLAND</p>	<p>Finnish Landowners' Organization Thomas Frankenhaeuser, President</p>	<p>PL 169, FI-01301, Vantaa Urheilutie 6 C, FI-01370, Vantaa Tel: +358 9 135 6 5 11 Fax: +358 9 1357 100 www.maanomistajainliitto.fi toimisto@maanomistajainliitto.fi</p>