



ICOM-Europe, In der Halde 1, D-14195 Berlin

President

Annual general meeting 2004 of ICOM-Europe in Seoul

ICOM-Europe 2004 Activity Report

The 2004 activity report of ICOM-Europe is the second report the board has submitted to members of Europe's regional organisation. The recent board is in office for more than one and a half years, following its election at the end of 2002.

The first activity report was submitted at the meeting of ICOM's Advisory Committee in June 2003. In addition to the annual reports, the chairman of ICOM-Europe has sent several letters to all members. Inform all of you of recent developments and future plans (last letter dated of 27th February 2004). Modern technology allows for intensive communication between the board and ICOM-Europe's members. You will find all papers also on ICOM-Europe's new homepage: www.ICOM-Europe.org

The board of ICOM-Europe met in Paris in June 2003 as well as in Seoul during the 2004 General Conference. The board members are always in constant communication by email to discuss the organisation's activities.

During the first meeting of the recent board of ICOM-Europe in early 2003 in Berlin, the board and the Secretary General of ICOM decided to accept all ICOM-national committees of the continent (UNESCO definition without Canada) as members of the organisation. The application system as written in the rules seemed to us too time consuming as well as bureaucratic. Since this policy has already a positive result, the rules need to be amended.

During the same first board meeting in 2003 the board came to a general understanding with the headquarters in Paris that it would be elected for a three-year-period and would work out a program for a full term. This makes sense, because the new board wanted to revitalise the regional organisation after years of inactivity and not start as a lame duck.

As all members know already from earlier reports and letters of the chair, the board of ICOM-Europe has focused its work for its first term on three main topics:

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- 1) To stimulate activities with eastern European regions, i.e. with the committees of the states along or beyond the new eastern EU-border
- 2) To work co-operate with the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) with respect to EU-activities
- 3) To co-operate with other regional organisations of ICOM

At this juncture, after half its term has been served, the board reports the following activities:

1) ICOM-Europe's co-operation with Eastern European partners has been very successful: There was a workshop-series with the national committees of Russia, Belarus and Germany about "Museums in the post-communist Era", held in Moscow/Tver (April 2003), Minsk (September 2003) and Berlin (April 2004). See also the report in ICOM-NEWS, July 2004. The partnership of ICOM-Europe was extremely helpful, because all participants could learn from each other and about the recent situation, advantages and problems of museums in the three respective countries, which are still undergoing dramatic changes. Most important is the recognition and network of Eastern and Western European colleagues during activities like these. For political reasons ICOM-Europe's patronage made it much easier for our national partners to realise the events.

ICOM-Europe was also partner of the first international Baltic Museology School 2004, which was held in Sigulda/Latvia, a town not far from the capital Riga. Museum colleagues from the Baltic states as well as from neighbouring countries met at the end of June 2004 for a week to exchange experiences and expectations. For the years to come ICOM-Europe will be a partner again.

ICOM-Europe as well as ICOM-Russia and ICOM-Germany have been partners for a three month fellowship program for Russian colleagues in Germany during March, April and May 2004. Also this program will also continue during the next two years.

One of the core activities of ICOM-Europe in Eastern Europe in 2005 will be a workshop on wheels (by bus) along the new eastern border of the European Union. Together with the national ICOM-Committees of Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine we are planning an event called "Shifting borders, changing identities". Museums play an important role explaining the history of shifting borders, because it has an immense impact on identities. The workshop-venues will probably be the towns of Vilnius, Brest and Lviv, cities which have belonged to different sovereign countries during the last centuries.

2) Concerning EU – Europe and the expected co-operation with the Network of European Museum Organisations: there was a first meeting during the annual conference of NEMO in Berlin in November 2003. Both organisations are willing to work together to prevent duplicate structures when it comes to talks with representatives of the European Union.

3) ICOM-Europe as well as ICOM-Arab are very much interested in co-operating in future. In 2004 there were already two official meetings – one in Egypt, one in Germany – to prepare a first joint project. Probably in February 2005 there is expected to be a first workshop in Egypt, co-organised by ICOM-Arab, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Nubian Museum in Aswan. The aim is a better cultural understanding among Europeans and Arabians, therefore the first workshop will deal with the question of what young museum visitors learn at museums in general and particular about the culture of European and Arabian world and vice versa.

This first workshop next year should not remain a single event, but a first step for a long lasting co-operation.

A second workshop is expected to be held in Germany a year later, when there will be a German-Syrian exhibition about "Saladin and the Crusaders". This exhibit will give an opportunity to see what people can learn from the past, explaining the uneven but common history of the two regions.

ICOM-Europe is in talks with ASPAC, ICOM's regional organisation of Asia and the Pacific to prepare a joint symposium in Vietnam in late 2005.

Let me please add that ICOM-Europe acts as a partner to many individual museum activities, such as: Musedoma-Awareness Conference in Berlin (2003), an international conference about "Illegal Archaeology" in Berlin (2003), an international symposium about "Objects applied to History" (2003) and another similar symposium in Luxembourg in 2005 ("Intangible Heritage"). In my position as chairperson, several times I have been invited kindly to different events to speak about ICOM and ICOM-Europe's activities.

As a result of ICOM-Europe's activities, our organisation has been asked to co-operate with other bodies of ICOM, such as the International Committee for Exhibition Exchange (co-operation for the annual meeting of ICEE in the Netherlands in 2005). ICOM-Australia is very much interested in establishing an exchange-program under the leadership of ICOM-Australia and ICOM-Europe. Talks have just began.

I do appreciate very much if the board of ICOM-Europe and the members of ICOM-Europe would continue and increase the activities we started one and a half years ago. The board of ICOM-Europe would like to thank all of you for your co-operation and help. Let us develop ICOM-Europe to a long-lasting successful part of the ICOM-family.

Thank you



Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz
Chair