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ICOM-Europe, c/o Museum Neukoelln, Ganghoferstr. 3, 12040 Berlin, Germany

Chairman

To the Chairpersons of the National Committees

To the Members of ICOM-Europe

To the President of ICOM

To the Secretary General of ICOM

To the Former Chair of ICOM-Europe

Berlin, 22, January 2007

Dear Colleagues,

I hope very much, that your museums have survived the storm over Europe last week and no serious damage has occurred. Unfortunately the Germanic-Roman Museum in Cologne, Germany, suffered some very heavy damage: a front window was broken by a sculpture, that then collapsed onto a Roman mosaic. As you all know Germany has taken the chair of the European Council. Culture is certainly not at the top of the agenda, but the issue of building trust and the improvement of networking between museums in Europe will be the topic of a conference supported by the German government in Bremen, Germany, on the **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2007**. It will be organized by the German Museum Association. There is no program out yet, but this will be an event, where ICOM-Europe and its members should get engaged. Please get in touch with me, if you are interested.

We are all looking forward to the General Conference in Vienna and it will be a European event for the ICOM-members, that come from all over the world. I feel, that the European museums and its staff have a special responsibility to act as good hosts in order to strengthen and develop our ties into the world. That is why I want to remind you of the campaign for African museum professionals, that I started in October last year, in order to acquire money

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for bursaries. Not many, but a few chairmen of National Committees have responded to this initiative so far.

For ICOM-Europe Vienna will be the place to have its General meeting and I am already asking you to mark down the **18<sup>th</sup> of August, 2007, ( 9:30 A.M. -12:30 A.M. )** in your calendar. The main issue will be the mission statement, the vote for a new Board and the agenda for 2007- 2010. On the **23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2007**, the Board of ICOM-Europe will meet in Belgrade in order to prepare the General meeting. If you want to be a candidate for the Board or you would like to suggest someone, you must let us know by the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and send us a CV with a picture. Candidates, who wish to participate in the Board-meeting in order to get an idea of the procedures, are cordially invited to come to Belgrade. If you intend to come, please let us know the latest by the **10<sup>th</sup> of February, 2007**.

We are very glad to announce, that ICOM-Europe was given a grant to publish an image-brochure. In the brochure I want to give you, the National Committees, the chance to state your opinion about ICOM-Europe. Send us a maximum of four or five lines, that - in short - describe your expectations, desires and understanding of ICOM-Europe's function. You might want to comment the mission statement or just express your judgement of ICOM-Europe's activities in the past years. For this we recommend to take a look at our website, where you will find all activities listed.

Then there are four issues of European importance, that I would like to draw your attention to:

1. The Director General of the French Museums, Madame Francine Mariani-Ducray, has approached me in accordance with the chair of ICOM-France, Madame Dominique Ferriot, who is member of our Board, to encourage European museums to participate in the Night of Museums. It will take place this year on the **19<sup>th</sup> of May 2007**. In France this date is linked with the International Museum Day on the **18<sup>th</sup> of May 2007** and has led to considerable success. I can only underline the importance of both dates. For more information please contact: **[nuitdesmusees.dmf@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:nuitdesmusees.dmf@culture.gouv.fr)**

2. The European Museum of the Year Prize and the Council of Europe Award are being monitored by the European Museum Forum. This year's Award ceremony will be in Alicante, Spain, **2-5 May 2007**. If you want to participate in that event or want to support a museum to apply for next year's award please contact: **[www.europeanmuseumforum.org](http://www.europeanmuseumforum.org)**

3. The Board of Europa Nostra has also asked me to spread the news about their special heritage prizes in different categories including museums. If you are interested in that, please contact: **[www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org)**

4. The event "Best in Heritage" gives you a chance to see presentations of museums from all over the world, that have won a prize. It will again take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from the **20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2007**. In addition to that ICOM - Europe will be the host of the "Dubrovnik Global Heritage Forum" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, that will raise top issues in heritage and will have distinguished representatives and experts as speakers. For more information see: **[www.thebestinheritage.com](http://www.thebestinheritage.com)**

If you have any events of a European dimension, that you wish to communicate, please do not hesitate to contact me. Hoping to hear from you.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Udo Gößwald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Udo Gößwald