



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

Chairman

To the

Chairpersons of the National Committees

The Members of the Board of ICOM Europe

The Chair of the Advisory

The Former Chair of ICOM Europe

The President of ICOM

Berlin, November 26, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

the General Meeting of ICOM Europe in Vienna is some time away already, but for those who have participated I think it was a remarkable event. I should say thank you first for your confidence in reelecting me as Chairman and acknowledging the work that the Board has done in the past years. The impression of many people I spoke with was that finally ICOM Europe has achieved to profile its aims and goals and is also capable of communicating them. I am very glad that our image brochure "Views and Activities" has been received so well. You may very well order some more, if you need them for your members.

In the meantime ICOM Europe was involved in several major activities that we have agreed on in our agenda. As partner of the annual event in Dubrovnik "The Best in Heritage" from September 27 -29, 2007 ICOM Europe hosted a discussion about "Reclaiming Cultural Property" and participated in the Dubrovnik Global Heritage Forum. We were very honoured to have Bernice Murphy, Chair of the ICOM Ethics Committee, and Chedlia Annabi, Chair of ICOM Arab, as guests and experts for the questions of repatriation and illicit traffic of cultural goods. A DVD-documentation of this discussion will be available soon.

From November 2 – 5, 2007, I represented ICOM Europe at a conference in Teheran, Iran, that was organized by the National Museum of Iran. Together with four German and one Swiss colleague we gave some basic lectures on the structure of the German museum

landscape, questions of sponsoring, museum pedagogy and international relationships. I presented my lecture on “The New Face of Europe in Its Museums”. We were received with much hospitality and were pleased to hear that the museums in Iran are seeking reforms and new orientations towards the visitors. After returning home, though, we were surprised by the news that the director of the National Museum, who had organized the conference, had been dismissed, only a short time after we had left. At the moment I am waiting for more detailed information in order to be able to react adequately.

On November 7, 2007, I participated in the conference “Hands On!Europe” in Berlin on the future of Children’s Museums. Because of the importance that these museums have in teaching children how to approach culture, nature and life through active programmes, I expressed my support for these museums, also underlining the necessity of more exchange and debate in order to profile the professional standards of these institutions.

Referring to Field 3 of our Agenda 2007 -2010 ICOM Europe was partner to the University of Arts in Berlin in organizing a conference on Museums Studies on November 16 and 17, 2007 in Berlin. This first conference with 30 participants intended to bring together all German speaking faculties of universities and independent institutions that offer programmes for the training of personnel. By comparing the different curricula and programmes a very profound discussion about future forms and standards for museum studies evolved. All participants from Austria, Switzerland and Germany agreed to continue the discussion in a new forum next year. In further steps the assembly agreed to invite staff members from museum studies programmes in the U.S., U.K. and Scandinavia. ICOM Italy, ICOM Switzerland and ICOM France have developed a guideline for museum professions in Europe together with ICTOP that I would like to draw your attention to. For more information contact the Chair of ICTOP: angelika.ruge@online.de

Together with the Chair of ICOM Arab and ICOM Morocco the preparations for the joint workshop by ICOM Europe and ICOM Arab are on its way. In this way we are continuing the cooperation with ICOM Arab that started in 2003. We hope to get a green light for financing it very soon. The workshop “Creating Exhibitions” will take place from April 2 – 6, 2007, and offer 40 young museum professionals the chance to learn from international experts how to develop high standard exhibitions in the field of archaeology and ethnology. 10 of these may join from European countries and we will soon launch the details, so that they can apply to participate. For three participants we will offer a grant to support their travel expenses. ICOM Europe’s Board Meeting will also take place in Morocco.

As you might have already heard, the Long Night of Museums in Europe will again take place the night before the International Museum Day on May 17. ICOM Europe has agreed to be partner of this event together with the European Council. I therefore encourage you to inform your members about this event and support them in participating. For more information see: www.nuitsdesmusees.culture.fr.

The preparations for the ICOM Europe tour "Between the Old and New Europe" in fall 2008 are also under way. The tour will be from Albania to Turkey, starting in Tirana and passing the cities of Korçe in Albania, Orhid in Macedonia, Vergina and Thessaloniki in Greece and will end in Istanbul. We call on all National Committees to support this endeavour and make suggestions how you can help by giving logistic assistance or providing accommodation. The dates will be from September 28 to October 4, 2008.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the next General Meeting of ICOM Europe that will take place together with the Advisory Council in Paris on June 1, 2008 at 3 P.M. Please tell me, if you would like to have any special items on the Agenda. In any case this should be a convenient occasion to discuss the new rules for the Regional Associations, our cooperation with the European digital library and an application to the European Commission for the funding of ICOM Europe.

That's all for now. Please check the minutes. If there are no comments within the next three weeks, we will consider them as accepted. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me about any of the above mentioned items.

With my very best regards,

Udo Gößwald