



---

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

President

## **2005 ICOM Europe Activity Report**

given to the Advisory Committee

June 2005, Paris

The 2004 ICOM Europe Activity Report was submitted during the Annual General Meeting of ICOM Europe at the ICOM General Conference in Seoul, Korea and was endorsed by the General Meeting.

The General Meeting elected ICOM Europe's new Board for the period 2004 to 2007. Board members from the previous shortened term (November 2002 to October 2004) were confirmed in their positions; only the former Chair of ICOM UK (Nick Merriman) decided not to run for office, but he proposed Barbara Woroncow from the Board of ICOM UK as his successor. The General Meeting elected Woroncow to the Board of ICOM Europe.

In an effort to make membership a less complicated process and to allow greater flexibility in the composition of the Board, various changes and amendments to the statutes of ICOM Europe were undertaken at the General Meeting of ICOM Europe in Seoul. The current version of ICOM Europe's statutes is located on the organization's homepage at [www.icom-europe.org/statutes.htm](http://www.icom-europe.org/statutes.htm).

The Board of ICOM Europe met in Seoul for its annual meeting, and again in Paris in June 2005.

In the last two and a half years, ICOM Europe has developed a strategic program that has served to internationalise the work of the national committees on our continent. The visit of ICOM-France to Berlin from May 20-22 and the joint annual conference of ICOM-UK and ICOM-Germany in October 05 in London are two good examples for that ICOM policy. It is our goal to link national committees more strongly to one another and to devote greater attention to specific regions in Europe that have seen great change and for whom international cooperation is a timely necessity.

Work in museums is fundamentally more international today than it ever has been before. In their exhibitions, museums communicate the history and culture not only of their own country, but depict European and international perspectives for their visitors. ICOM Europe affords colleagues the opportunity to further their own professionalisation process by bringing them together to talk about current and long-term themes. In addition, ICOM Europe actively fosters intercultural dialogue.

---

**ICOM-Europe · In der Halde 1 · D-14195 Berlin**

**Tel (+49 30) 69 50 45 25 · Fax (+49 30) 69 50 45 26 · E-mail: [icom-deutschland@t-online.de](mailto:icom-deutschland@t-online.de)  
[www.icom-europe.org](http://www.icom-europe.org)**

Bank account: Dresdner Bank AG · 10877 Berlin · BLZ 120 800 00 · Konto-Nr. : 409 571 4800

BIC: DRES DE 33 · IBAN: DE 47 12080000 4095714800

ICOM Europe's Board chose Eastern Europe as its programmatic focus for the next years. In the wake of political transformations over the past twenty years in this region, museum conditions and even museum missions have also changed. A cornerstone of ICOM Europe's work has been and will continue to be to encourage the exchange of information and experience, to connect this part of Europe with the rest in order to improve future work.

For that reason, ICOM Europe organised a conference series in 2003 and 2004 entitled "Museums in the Post-Communist Era" in Moscow/Tver, Minsk, and Berlin. Participants learned about the challenges facing museums in countries that had undergone enormous political and social change, or were still undergoing those changes. International exchange about contemporary history museums, regional museums, and memorial museums was decidedly helpful for individual understanding and museum work at home.

Building on the positive experiences of this series, a second project in this vein titled "Shifting Borders – Changing Identities," will be held in September 2005. Coordinated by ICOM Europe, the national committees of Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine have initiated and organized this program. Precisely these regions of Europe have experienced frequent changes as part of different nation-states in the past – and with the expansion of the EU – in the present as well. A goal of this conference will be to work out how museums can engage with the issue of shifting state borders and thereby with changing identities, using exhibition practices to help people find a sense of security and develop more stable identities.

As a so-called "conference on wheels," this fall's project will be held successively in Vilnius, Brest, and Lviv. Speakers and other conference participants will journey from station to station together in a bus, more or less along the new EU border in Eastern Europe.

ICOM Europe will also again serve as Partner to the International Baltic Museology School that is in preparation in Latvia.

A second inner-European focus is our work with NEMO, the Network of Museums Organisations, an international team of national museum associations in Europe. In this context we will look at questions involving the European Union, namely the impact of Brussels decisions on museums in EU countries. To be sure, this contact is in its beginning stages.

A further regional focal point of ICOM Europe's efforts is working together with our Arab neighbor region. Not only current political developments in the last years have demonstrated the necessity for better acquaintance and understanding; in addition we are committed to bringing together museum professionals from both regions. In their work, these museum professionals can carry great responsibility: they can help to break down stereotypes and clichés and can encourage people in both regions to become more enlightened and informed about the culture of the other, and also about their shared, often weighty history. ICOM can provide the framework for this exchange – for determining how projects are created and how to transmit content – which is absolutely essential nowadays.

Therefore, ICOM Europe is very grateful to the regional organisation of ICOM Arab and the national committee of ICOM Egypt. After more than a year of preparation, the first Arab-European ICOM Workshop was held in February 2005 in Aswan, Egypt. The Workshop was held at the Nubian Museum in Aswan and had as its theme "Children and Heritage." ICOM Europe asked its southern European national committees from Italy, Spain, and Portugal to speak about their respective museums, especially about how the Arab world is taken into consideration in their work. Arab presenters also came from various nations, mostly, however, from Egypt, which was represented by the directors of several national museums.

The presence of ICOM President Alissandra Cummins underlined the importance of this conference. Both ICOM Europe and ICOM Arab are very grateful to her for her participation.

The second Arab-European Workshop has been planned for the spring of 2006 in Germany, where the theme will be “Bridging Cultures through Historical Exhibitions.” Our initial contact will be expanded in the coming months.

In a wonderful way, this conference in Egypt has proved the excellent cooperation between the two regional organizations.

In addition, ICOM Europe was partner or patron to a variety of international events. It gives assistance by providing advice particularly to those regions that do not yet have national committees.

ICOM Europe’s work is currently supported primarily by the ICOM Germany’s national committee, which provides it with offices and project management. ICOM Germany staff also constructed and continue to supervise the homepage and are available for questions. However, the seat of ICOM Europe’s office can only remain in Germany as long as the Chair of the Board is a representative of the German national committee. Therefore, it remains desirable to design more longer lasting structures that are not dependent on individuals. Only a few national committees have paid employees that can assist ICOM Europe. ICOM World should create conditions that allow regional organisations to carry more weight, but that also allow for better working conditions. Until now, regional groups have been characterized by their weak organisational structure: as a rule there have never been permanent offices, no paid employees, no secure budget; instead these organizations have depended on the voluntary participation of various colleagues who have recognized the importance of international museum work.

The 2005 Activity Report represents my last report for ICOM Europe. I was elected to the Executive Council of ICOM at the General Conference in Seoul, and since the Executive Council wishes to prevent conflicts of interest, they have asked that Council members not be in leadership roles in other areas of ICOM. Therefore, I am not able to continue my work for ICOM Europe.

For this reason, at its June 2005 meeting in Paris, the Board of ICOM Europe elected Udo Goesswald as Chair of the Board. He will serve until the end of term in 2007. Udo Goesswald is Vice-President of ICOM Germany and the Director of the Neukoelln Museum in Berlin. Michel van Praet, member of the Board of ICOM-Europe, and also elected to the Executive Council, stepped also down from his position as board member. He recommended his successor as chair of ICOM-France, Dominique Ferriot, to work as board member of ICOM-Europe until the next election in 2007. The Board of ICOM-Europe elected Madame Ferriot as a new member of the board during the June meeting in 2005.

I would like to wish both of them great success in their position and personally to thank everyone who has helped make ICOM Europe an active and influential advocate for international museum work in the last years.



Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz  
Chair of ICOM-Europe 2002 – 2005