



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

President

**To the members of
ICOM Europe
Chairpersons of the national committees in Europe**

Berlin, 27th February 2004

Dear chairwomen and chairmen of the national ICOM committees in Europe, dear colleagues,

A bit late, but not too late: I wish you and your families as well as your committees all the best for the new year 2004, health, success and happiness.

It is my pleasure to report about the recent developments within ICOM-Europe which have taken place during the last months. You certainly will remember the report about ICOM-Europe's activities which I gave to the Advisory Committee of ICOM last June. It is also printed in the minutes of that meeting.

In this report I pointed out three main topics of our work:

Focus 1: Concerning EU activities, it was our idea to come in contact with the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) in order to prevent double structures and competition among the two regional museum organisations.

Focus 2: To stimulate activities with eastern European regions, i.e. the states beyond the new EU borders, in order to link committees over there with the rest of Europe.

Focus 3: To find out, if ICOM-Europe and ICOM Arab should begin a co-operation in order to learn more from each other and to get a better intercultural understanding.

I had the pleasure to join the annual conference of NEMO Berlin in late November 2003. The chairwoman of NEMO invited me to speak to all participants of the NEMO meeting. In my speech I pointed out that ICOM-Europe would like to co-operate with NEMO when it comes to EU-themes. Since NEMO has already a mechanism of consultations with representatives of the EU-Commission as well as the EU-Parliament in Brussels (once or twice a year), I asked if ICOM could participate in that process. I also offered the nomination of an ICOM-Europe

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

☎ (030) 69 50 45 25 · Fax (030) 69 50 45 26 · E-mail: icom-deutschland@t-online.de

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

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

correspondent for those talks in Brussels, who could contribute questions and comments and to distribute answers among ICOM-bodies after the respective meetings. During the second ICOM-Europe board meeting in Paris last June, the board recommended Michel van Praet as our correspondent for the Brussels talks.

In Berlin we decided to invited the chairwoman of NEMO to ICOM-Europe's next board meeting to continue with discussions.

The second focus of our work is Eastern Europe. Let me please tell you that these activities are already very successful. In 2003 we started with a workshop initiative of the following countries: Russia, Belarus and Germany. "Museums in post-communist times" is the title of a workshop-series in Moscow/Twer, Minsk and Berlin. ICOM-Europe has given its patronage to this triple conference. While the conference in Moscow/Twer in April last year focused on regional museums, the second one in Minsk had "Identity" as the title. The patronage of ICOM-Europe was very helpful especially for our colleagues from Belarus, which allowed them to offer an international meeting like this.

From 22nd until 24th April 2004 there will be the third and last of the workshops held in the German-Russian Museum in Berlin-Karlshorst and we will learn about the museum- and memorial situation in the former East-Germany.

Concerning patronage in general: Besides the workshop-series about the post-communist time there are still two others this year: The Baltic Summer School in late June and a German-Luxembourgian symposium titled: "Exhibits as Historical Testimonies" and "Intangible Cultural Heritage", also in June.

Whenever you are interested in an ICOM-Europe – patronage for cross-border ICOM-activities among member-committees, please let me know

Coming to the ICOM-Europe/ICOM-Arab activities. During the annual conference of the Advisory Committee in June 2003 there was a first "in-official" meeting with the executive secretary of ICOM-Arab in Paris. Later both sides exchanged ideas for workshop-topics as well as for locations, where meetings should take place. We proposed Malta for a workshop and also the patronage for a German-Syrian exhibit about "Saladin", which will be shown in Mannheim and Damascus in 2005/2006.

It is my pleasure to inform you that there was an "official" ICOM-Arab – ICOM-Europe meeting between 16th and 18th January in Cairo. I met Prof. Eldamaty, director general of the famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo and head of ICOM-Arab, as well a Chedlia Annabi, executive secretary of ICOM Arab (from Tunis). After several talks and discussions, both we decided to start with a co-operation program in the years to come. I pointed out that the conception we will work out should allow a better cultural understanding of the Arabian World in Europe and vice versa. The topic should recognise the two regions and not double the work of any International Committee of ICOM. On the Arabian side there is a strong interest to concentrate on education in museums, especially children. There are already new developments in Arabian countries and the exchange of experiences would be very helpful. For me this is very acceptable and I appreciate this beginning of an intercultural dialogue.

To realise our idea, we decided to offer a common European-Arabian workshop for museum personnel about "What do children learn about the culture and history in museums" (working title).

Later we met in Cairo one of the most high ranking representatives of cultural affairs in Egypt, Prof. Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Antiquities and explained our ideas. He accepted our suggestions with pleasure and will probably be able to support this beginning of our co-operation. Since the Egyptians are very much interested in supervising the first workshop, there is the plan to chose the city of Aswan for that event. To

prevent any collision with the ICOM General Conference in Seoul, we will organise that meeting for early next year.

The first meeting should not remain a single event but a first step for a long lasting program. The second conference later on should be held in Europe, the following one in an Arabian country again etc. What do you think about that European-Arabian "agreement"? Please let me know.

Dear colleagues, I very much hope you accept the work and activities your board of ICOM-Europe offers to you. If you have any questions or any comments and recommendations, please do not hesitate to call or write.

We will meet each other in Seoul during the General Conference of ICOM and will have plenty of opportunities to speak to each other.

As you know, there is no board election this year, since this board was elected at the end of 2002. The term runs at least until 2005.

There was a discussion that the present board should serve until the General Conference in 2007 in Vienna in order to have enough time to realise its program, which takes time. The secretary general fully agrees to extend the present period until the Vienna conference. Let me please ask, if you also agree. If yes, we will accept it with pleasure, if not, please let me know. Thank you very much indeed.

Best wishes from Berlin



Hans-Martin Hinz
Chairman ICOM-Europe

P.S.

The International Association of Museums of History, an Affiliated Organisation to the ICOM organises every two years an international congress concerning a topical subject for History Museums around the world. The Museu Paulista in São Paulo (Brazil) and the Museu Imperial in Petrópolis (Brazil) will host the 7th IAMH Colloquium from 21st to 28th March 2004, which will focus on the general subject of *How to organise a multi-centred world. Museums and New Global Cultural Issues*.

For more information and to see the complete programme of the event please go to:

www.aimh.org and www.mp.usp.br/7brasil