

Newsletter No 1

May 2015

2015 and beyond



EDITO

Dear readers, dear friends

2014 has been marked by *historic moments* with the adoption of the Communication "[Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe](#)" of the European Commission, but also [the Conclusions of the European Council on "cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe"](#) which were adopted last May and July.

And 2015 seems to begin under the best auspices. We were invited, for the first time, to the *Council of Europe's meeting on cultural heritage*, gathering ministers and organizations. With this initiative of the Belgian chairmanship, the Council of Europe added itself to the list of European institutions engaged for the protection of our cultural heritage and we were able to represent the private sector voice.

We had the chance to meet the *Commissioner's cabinet for Culture* in order to discuss his future participation to the conference which we will organise on the 3rd of October.

We also raised, as it is a target of the EU institutions, the question of the *Young generation's* involvement and their learning way to best management of our historic houses.

Finally, we are very proud of the closer and closer *collaboration and real progress* with our partners such as the organizations of the Alliance 3.3, other cultural stakeholders and sponsors.

Rodolphe de Looz- Corswarem
Executive President



NEWS

- *18 March 2015: Dorotheum, the European Historic Houses Association and the Association Royale des Demeures Historiques et Jardins de Belgique (ARDHJB) organized a conference at the Cercle de Lorraine. The chosen theme was "Successful management of private movable heritage". Several prestigious orators presented, the art expert or successional heritage legal expert's point of view.*
- *4 May 2015 : the European Historic Houses Association met the Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for culture Mr. Navracsics,. Ms. Adrienn Kiraly confirmed the Commissioner will open the Conference during our General Assembly (1-4 October)*

Cultivate our work partnerships

Europa Nostra : the Alliance 3.3 Meeting & the Capacity Building days

During the **last meeting of the Alliance 3.3 of February the 4th 2015**, the European Historic Houses Association was particularly attentive to cultural policies developments at the EU levels linked to the Conclusions of the European Council under Italian presidency dating back from May 2015 and the Communication of the European Commission “Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe” adopted in July 2014. Moreover, we had the occasion to meet EU institutions actors, notably from the Directorate General « Education and Culture » and discuss about the possible issues we would like to be adressed at the EU level. Then, we learnt that cultural heritage can be defended through principally a smart use of the European Structural Funds and the resort to financing facilities allowed by the Investment Plan for Europe, for example for the construction and renovation of historic buildings.

Europa Nostra organised an intense three-day programme, the « **Capacity Building days** » in Brussels on 15-17 April 2015 to strengthen the capacity of its Member Organisations. The European Historic Houses as well as the ELO participated actively to those 3 days. The meeting gathered together Executive Officers of heritage NGOs (or their representatives) from 13 European countries. We had the opportunity to exchange views with Michel Magnier, Education and Culture Director at the European Commission, on the **latest policy developments on cultural heritage in the European Commission**; with Zoltan Krasznai, who works in the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation, on the **links between cultural heritage and the Horizon 2020 strategy**; and with Miltiades Kyrkos, Greek Member of the European Parliament on the **relation between cultural heritage and sustainable tourism**.

*The 2016 edition will be addressed to Communication Officers, with a special focus on **digital technologies**, whereas the 2017 edition will target Outreach Officers, focusing particularly on **Youth and Education**.*

Learn more at : <http://www.europeanheritagealliance.eu/> and <http://www.europeanheritagealliance.eu/>



European Historic Houses Project Petite Loire/Keine Loire

The European Historic Houses is a partner of the **"Petite Loire" project**. The **"Petite Loire"** is an initiative targeting three countries (France, Belgium and the Netherlands) and five regions. It has the ambition to **develop the cultural heritage value, especially through private historic houses, both in a rural and urban context** and to create a common promotion and presentation of the region through the creation of a communication platform for both private and public activities. On the 23rd of April, our Association participated with other involved organizations to a meeting at the Kasteel van Hegmont, in Zottegem. It was the occasion to exchange and to reaffirm the importance of the role of private historic houses in economic and social development of the EU.

The Next Generation ready to take a step forward



The **first international Next Generation Conference** was held under the umbrella of the European Historic Houses Association at Aynhoe Park, near Oxford, UK, from the 20st to the 22nd of March. The young generation of future property owners joined together to discuss **the future challenges** to the management of their estates. They agreed to help facilitate to create young groups in the EU. Speakers from various background gave their insights on the issue of transmission on movables, taxes, farming estates etc.

The European Historic Houses was invited to contribute to the Council of Europe's meeting on cultural heritage.

On the 23rd and 24th of April, the European Historic Houses Association was invited for the first time, to the Meeting of the Ministers of Cultural Heritage of the Council of Europe, in Namur. 38 national delegations, and 25 international organizations, including civil society, among which the European Historic Houses has been invited. We had the chance to be offered to intervene during the session. At this occasion, our President defended the **interest of private cultural heritage in Europe**. He recalled how much it participates to the **global cultural heritage contribution to Europe's GDP but also local development, social cohesion and platform for young people who find job** and personal accomplishment opportunities. At the end of these meetings, the [Declaration of Namur](#) was adopted. The different organizations and governments also cared to publish the [Namur Call](#), enjoining all countries of the world to protect their endangered cultural heritage, notably in response to the recent news from Iraq.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10-14 June – Europa Nostra's General Assembly, Oslo (Norway)
- 2-3 July – European Commission Workshop « Voice of culture » in Florence (Italy)
- 01-04 October – European Historic Houses' General Assembly (Belgium)

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