

Network of European Royal Residences

BOARD MEETING

Royal Palace of Monza, Italy

Friday 8 December 2017

ATTENDEES:

Catherine Pégard, President

President, Établissement public du château, du musée et du domaine national de Versailles, France

Hartmut Dorgerloh, Vice-president

General Director, Stiftung Preussische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin Brandenburg, Germany

Axel Harms, Vice-president

Head of Communication, The Royal Danish Collection, Denmark

Laurent Salomé, General Secretary

Director, Musée national des châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon, France

Elzbieta Grygiel, Assistant Secretary General

Head of Department of Communication, Muzeum Pałacu Króla Jana III w Wilanowie, Poland

António Nunes Pereira, Treasurer

Director of Pena Nacional Palace, Portugal

Tamás Ujváry Assistant Treasurer

Managing Director, Gödöllői Királyi Kastély Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft, Hungary

Elena Alliaudi, Office/Secretariat

Hélène Legrand, Office/Secretariat

Opening: greetings by Ms Catherine Pégard, President

ACTIVITIES 2017/2018

International symposium on Preventive Conservation /Progress report

Laurent Salomé

The symposium has been a big success with more than 150 participants. A number of questions have been discussed during the three days of symposium. Many institutions from around the world were represented (Institutions from South America, the USA, members of the Network of European Royal Residences, etc.). This symposium succeeded in gathering the specialists of the field to discuss the typical problems we all face.

The Vatican Museums were very interested by the subject. They plan a conference on Preventive Conservation at the end of 2018, in October. A call for papers will be published. But, it will be more for museums than palaces and royal residences.

New palaces, such as the Vatican Museums, the Palace of Schönbrunn or the Royal Palace of Caserta, would like to collaborate to the EPICO program.

António Nunes Pereira: The Palace of Schönbrunn and the Royal Palace of Caserta are already members of the Network. Why do they ask for collaboration?

Elena Alliaudi: The first phase of EPICO (2015-2017) was dedicated to designing the method (in Versailles) and now they wish to collaborate to the research program and to apply the method in their palaces.

Laurent Salomé: One of the goals of the conference was to explain the EPICO method. The first tests were conducted at the Museum of King Jan III at Wilanow (Poland) and at La Venaria Reale (Italy), which were partners of EPICO. Now, we have collaboration requests from other institutions.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: Can you make something like a conclusion after the conference?

Laurent Salomé: Today we can discuss communication and dissemination of this method. How do we promote this method? How will we develop this method? We talked about an online platform. How could the method be available online?

Catherine Pégard: It is a new beginning for the subject of preventive conservation. It was also very interesting because we had a lot of non-European countries: China, Brazil, USA, etc. We can be the start of something, we can be a model for other palaces.

Laurent Salomé: During the symposium, we had good discussions and we could draw a comparison of different methods. All speakers explained their methods. EPICO could be a step further. But we have to remember that not everybody was behind EPICO. There were some questions, asking for more information about the method.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: It could be interesting to discuss an international standard, to have a frame, for example in the case of loans. Colleagues who went to the symposium were very inspired when they came back and very glad to have met other colleagues and discussed their methods. It was very successful.

Laurent Salomé: About standards, the main point is that it is difficult for historical houses, more than for museums. But even museums want to change methods and they are ready to try this method.

Axel Harms: It is a very interesting perspective but to create standards for historic houses may be a very big task and, in practice, may not be very useful. With standards, we exclude a lot of historic houses. Nonetheless, it could be interesting.

Laurent Salomé: One interesting thing about EPICO, beyond the conference, is that we can reevaluate the idea of risks. For example, we discovered, with Danilo Forleo, that light is not as dangerous as we imagined. Finally, with scientific measures, we saw that light is not the major danger for collections, even in rooms with many lights. We did not observe as many problems as we thought. We have to be very precise and not just have an obvious idea. It is not so easy to state what is dangerous, what is not. It is not easy to define standards. Moreover, there are all the discussions about "how to define a damage"? Even, at the international level, how do we translate the word "damage"? And how do we measure these damages?

António Nunes Pereira: These issues around standards are something for museums. When there is a new building, it is possible to control everything in the room (light, climate, etc.). Maybe we do not need standards. We need methods but not standards. We have to define what it is acceptable for our venues, and move away from this museum dictatorship.

Laurent Salomé: And sometimes, our objects which were kept for centuries in extreme conditions, without air-conditioning, are instantly damaged in modern museums.

Catherine Pégard: I would like to talk about finances because I think it is very interesting. Some companies, small companies, involved in this topic were very interested. For this conference, we found sponsorships. It is a lesson for us. We are too shy. Everybody can do the same for other projects. It is easy to give 5000, 10 000 euros. It is a good way to have new sponsors. Moreover, these sponsors were very happy to be here. They were invited to the conference and to the cocktail in Versailles. It is a little thing but it is very important for specific projects. It was the case here. If we have a new symposium to organize, it will be important to think about that.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: What was the budget of the conference?

Elena Alliaudi: The funding of the conference:

- Network of European Royal Residences (10.000,00 €)
- Research Center of the Palace of Versailles (10.000,00 €)
- Palace of Versailles (55.000,00 € → through sponsorship)
- Revenues from ticket sales: (21.319,20)

We had 7 sponsors for the conference from 4 countries (USA/France/Germany/Italy) and the budget is completely balanced.

Catherine Pégard: It is very interesting, a good example, and very significant, especially for something which was very specialized, not for the public.

António Nunes Pereira: And the tickets were completely sold out, although the fees were very high. Is EPICO going on?

Laurent Salomé: Yes, we need to define the program for the next year. We have to draw up the priorities, choose partners, discuss the places where we will try the method. Maybe, we can discuss EPICO during the next meeting of the Network, during the General Assembly.

Elena Alliaudi : We also sent the first publication about the first phase of EPICO. (Cronache 7)

Hartmut Dorgerloh: And the Vatican's project is part of EPICO?

Laurent Salomé: No, it is a different project. It is just a one-day conference. I believe the program is already designed.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: For EPICO, if you agree to have new partners, maybe we should try to involve more members for the second phase, to get members to be more active. We could put it on the agenda of the GA or incite them to be more active; sometimes, people are a little shy on these topics. Sometimes we need to push them.

Catherine Pégard: We can do both. We can send an official letter to the members and put it on the agenda of the next General Assembly. Maybe we can invite Danilo Forleo to our next meeting (for the GA) in order to have a summary.

António Nunes Pereira: In Sintra, we are presently working on our house keeping manuals. It is time to discuss these issues.

2017 / 2018 Technical meetings

Elena Alliaudi: The technical meeting in Lazienki was a great success. There was a big group of participants and it was a very good example of a participatory meeting. It was a meeting balanced between lectures and activities. We did a lot of things, activities that they offer to their public. Everybody was very happy.

Elzbieta Grygiel: It was a good example, which shows that we can slightly change our habits. We discussed it during the General Assembly and Gabriele Horn did not agree to change the standards of technical meeting. But it happened in Lazienki and it was very interesting to observe, how little changes in the format of the technical meeting have changed performance of participants, who were expected to act, not only listen to presentations. It was more participatory.

Elena Alliaudi: We also had external participants. We received someone from Frederiksborg and two Chinese colleagues. The colleague from Frederiksborg was very interested.

Elzbieta Grygiel: It was a very good experience. We should be open to new formats, be more flexible, and not just keep only lectures. If we have applications from outside, we should accept them.

Axel Harms: We especially should be open to change the format to suit the group or the topic of the meeting.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: I think it is a good idea to be open. Participants should not only be consumers but also actors. They need to try, to test.

Elzbieta Grygiel: We would like to support the mobility program, kind of "job shadowing". It is important to improve capacity of young people who can work with experienced professionals in other museums and residences. For instance our gardeners are going to Potsdam for several days. It is a very good experience for them and opportunity to learn. In many cases job shadowing becomes important experience for both tutors and interns. I think mobility of young professionals is the most valuable way of learning and creating links, contacts among our residences.

António Nunes Pereira: I believe that all institutions in Europe must have training for employees. We do a lot of internal training. These technical meetings, conferences are considered trainings. It is the way I try to combine both things (mobility and training) and make institution participate in these meetings. We have two things in one, it is wonderful.

Elzbieta Grygiel: In Poland, the technical meetings are presented to the Ministry of Culture as trainings, very professional trainings. We will offer such trainings for the Network in February, focused on open storages.

Tamás Ujváry: What does "open storages" mean?

Elzbieta Grygiel: Open storage is a kind of exhibition of artefacts which were hidden in storages due to lack of space or because they do not fit into the concept of the permanent exhibition. Newly arranged space of storage allows the public to enter them and see these artifacts. Our new gallery accessible for

visitors has been opened in September 2017. We had good press coverage. Many people come to visit it. We put in place a special route in the palace to see this open storage and we have also installed an open workshop there. Visitors can see through the glass the work of the restorers who conduct conservation of a precious namban table, which is a masterpiece combining Japanese and Portuguese traditional art. It is sponsored by a Japanese foundation.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: In Germany, in the frame of our national network, we have a meeting gathering all the directors and managers for two days. So the offices are completely empty. Two or three years ago, our secretaries decided to organize a meeting for themselves. They know each other by phone and mail. So they take the opportunity to organize a two-day meeting for themselves and it is a great success. They have a kind of training on how they manage us. For now, it is just at the national level. It is very interesting because, often, they understand much better than us how complicated it is to organize an event, a meeting.

António Nunes Pereira: Technical meeting of people who organize meetings, who are in charge of logistics? Why not?

Proposal from La Venaria Reale for 2018

Laurent Salomé

Andra Merlotti asked me to suggest that we discuss his proposal about the identity of royal residences and how they face the transition from being places of power to being places housing museums. He is going to organize a symposium and he would like to have some financial support from the Network, especially to invite some speakers.

Elena Alliaudi: The symposium will be in Venaria Reale. Some colleagues from other member organizations (Patrimonio Nacional and Royal Castle of Warsaw) have already been invited and have confirmed their attendance. For that reason, Andrea Merlotti would like to organize the symposium within the Network.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: I think it is a good idea but how much it will cost?

António Nunes Pereira: Should we give financial support to an individual project? My doubt about this project is: why should we fund it, if it is his own initiative?

We could create an antecedent and it is dangerous. Everybody could ask for the support of the network for their initiative. It is not the same as the EPICO project, which had been discussed during the General Assembly. He has agreement of some members but the project was not discussed in the General Assembly. It is not so much about money, but it is a question of logic. Institutions should contribute to the common work and not the common work to personal initiatives.

Laurent Salomé: The subject of the conference is good; it is so much our subject. We can find some ways to help him.

Axel Harms: The project was presented last year in the General Assembly 2016. In that case the network can communicate, support this project. We can disseminate the information through the secretariat. Last year, we had a conference on Rococo in Denmark and you kindly spread the information, without this conference becoming a project of the network.

Catherine Pégard: Moreover, if we start, we create a precedent.

António Nunes Pereira: The activities of the entire year have to be decided during the General Assembly. We must plan the activities for the year. So, we have two arguments against supporting individual initiatives.

1. The project has not been proposed during the General Assembly. Consequently, we can't decide anything. We can regret that he did not propose it in the General Assembly.
2. It is a personal project and not a common project.

ECHY 2018 / Progress report

Catherine Pégard: concerning the launch of "A Place at the Royal Table" on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition "Why do we eat the way we do?" in Schönbrunn, I suggest that some

members of the board should go to Schönbrunn. The official launch will be the same day for all members but maybe we can focus on the Palace of Schönbrunn.

Elena Alliaudi: Actually, we decided on three peaks. The question is to see how we manage the opening of ECHY. How do we give relevance to this launch?

Axel Harms: For the whole Network, the idea of ECHY is to be inclusive. It is a distributive program so to focus on a single place is maybe not the solution.

Catherine Pégard: I think we can do both. The Palace of Schönbrunn will be a kind of symbol. If we do not have a concrete moment, it is more difficult.

Elena Alliaudi: How do you imagine this launch?

Axel Harms: I imagined that we are going to communicate individually. And then, that we will have a common communication.

Catherine Pégard: So, do you think we do not need Schönbrunn for the launch?

Axel Harms: No, it is just that we should emphasize all the members participating. I can understand that for political reasons it is good to go to Schönbrunn, but I am not sure that we have to emphasize this as the opening of ECHY.

Laurent Salomé: The idea is to have something to show, something specific, and not just to launch the year. An exhibition is a good way.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: Could we do both? We could ask Christina Schindler to invite one member of the board, just for a little opening presentation of the project. And the same day, we do something together with our own resources. For example, put something on the website, launch it, to have something in common, to have common information that we can spread, to say that in 2018 a part of our program will be part of ECHY. At SPSG, our program will begin in January but we will do the official launch of A Place at the Royal Table in March.

Elena Alliaudi: We need to establish a communication strategy for all the members.

António Nunes Pereira: It would be good if we have a quote of the president that we could spread to all members. We could have a small statement with 2-3 sentences of the president that we could give to our departments and they could put it inside our national, individual announcements of the event. It is important to show that our events happen in a wider context.

Axel Harms: We definitively need a communication strategy for the year, especially for the open-air event, which will be the most public event of the year. The important thing is to succeed in integrating the European message into the network. We should have symbols, simple tools that every member can use.

Elena Alliaudi: For now, the only document we have is the brochure. It is really home-made, a simple Word document. I imagine something more professional for next year. Every member could use it.

The only document is this brochure. It is really home-made. I imagine something more professional

Axel Harms: Yes, but not printed, just a file to upload.

Elena Alliaudi: Do we work with graphic designers? Or can we ask our colleague from Versailles?

Hartmut Dorgerloh: We need it in open format to allow changes if new members join, if dates change, etc.

Elena Alliaudi: We can start conceiving a design internally and then, if we get the European funding from Creative Europe, we will have money for an external graphic design. Moreover, yesterday we met Tibor Navracsics, he is aware of our submission.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: We do not have a logo, a motto. In Germany, we decided to use the logo of Sharing Heritage. Instead of having nothing, maybe you can use it. It is simple and a way to show our common project.

Axel Harms: But is it the European logo?

Hartmut Dorgerloh: No, it is not the European logo.

Elena Alliaudi: There is now an official logo which has been launched yesterday (European Forum of Culture).

António Nunes Pereira: So, there will be the logo of Sharing Heritage, the one of the European Commission, the national logos and the logos of the institutions... There are many logos.

Axel Harms: The question is how much do we want logos? The secretariat could identify official logos and send the logos we have to use to all members.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: Next year, there will be a summit in Berlin. It will be the annual conference of ICOMOS and Europa Nostra and some other events from 19 to 23 June. The picnic will be held in

Potsdam and will be part of Europa Nostra's annual conference. The day before, there will be different events in Berlin, such as workshops. The headline will be cultural heritage. It would be nice to have something for our members. Maybe it is not such a good idea to have a meeting but maybe we can announce the program to everyone. There will be many conferences. It is a good opportunity.

Elena Alliaudi: Furthermore, we are now officially part of Europa Nostra and Culture Action Europe. The two networks identified during the General Assembly. They put all the information on the Network on their website.

ENLARGEMENT

Elena Alliaudi: I would like to share with you an information from Gabriele Horn, who met several weeks ago the director of the Imperial Museum of Petropolis (Brazil), who is very interested in the Network.

António Nunes Pereira: This question is very interesting because there are great connections between Brazilians and Portuguese. The royal family went abroad to escape French invasion and started another dynasty. It was the same family but two Royal Houses in a place which was, for a while, a Portuguese colony. Our association deals with European identity and the history of Europe is not complete without talking about colonization. There is a clear connection with Europe, even if the place is not on the European continent. It is interesting to me personally. For a while, Brazil was the metropolis, not Portugal. One of the members of this lineage was the daughter of the last emperor of the Holy Roman German Empire. The connection with Europe is right here. That it is why it is so interesting. Of course, if we open the Network outside Europe, it can be dangerous.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: I am very pragmatic. According the statutes, it is not possible. from another point of view, it is very interesting. I do not know this palace. First, maybe we can invite them, just to know a little more about the palace. They are very present within the DEHMIST Icom Committee. It could be another link through this. Before talking about membership, we could try to invite them, know them.

Axel Harms: I think it is a good idea in any case, at any occasion. Nevertheless, I think we should have a clear idea, we should know where it could lead. We should know, for the long term, if there is a possibility.

Catherine Pégard: We can have a special link with some special sites, but without them being members. There are many degrees before becoming member. We have to go step by step, invite them for a meeting.

António Nunes Pereira: We cannot change the statutes. But maybe we can imagine a different statute like "observing member" for those members outside Europe with which we have a link. I think is important to keep contact with them.

Laurent Salomé: We should also think about what other palaces are in the same situation.

Axel Harms: I just checked in the statutes. It is not clearly prohibited. But we talked several times of this question of membership. It doesn't say anything about connections with royal families.

António Nunes Pereira: I wouldn't have anything against them being full members.

Axel Harms: Anyway, it will be very difficult to be a full member because it is outside European Union. Associate member will be the maximum anyway

António Nunes Pereira: But the Network is so connected with the EU?

Axel Harms: We should remember previous issues with Russian members. We had strong ambitions connected to the European commission programs. It is easier to navigate through these programs when we have members participating within EU. That was the reason why Peterhof entered as associate member in the Network.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: Antonio could contact this person in this Brazilian palace in order to know more about them. We can invite them for a technical meeting. EPICO is also a good opportunity. If this palace applies for the Network, we will discuss further. When we discuss the statutes, we will have to discuss the notion of "European". Does it mean "Europe" or "European Union". Especially with the question of Brexit. And we could discuss what is meant by "associate".

Elena Alliaudi: It is not written in the statutes that associate members have to pay less. It is an informal rule.

Axel Harms: It was discussed during the partnership with Peterhof. They have a lot of visitors but they had no money.

António Nunes Pereira: I think it is not good to keep Russian away like we do. I feel very uncomfortable to keep such a distance with the Russians, they are our partners.

Axel Harms: I think that if they agree with this, we should let it as it is. I wouldn't like to reopen all Russian discussions. If they are comfortable with the statutes, it is ok. Of course, if they want to discuss, we will discuss.

António Nunes Pereira: And so, the question of membership will be asked for the Vatican Museums. And could be asked again for Monaco and for the British.

Elena Alliaudi: This year the Royal Collection (Buckingham Palace) contacted us. In the end, there was not enough time to apply for membership. What do we want to do with them?

Axel Harms: I think you should speak to John Barnes. I have the impression that the person who contacted you has not really checked with his superiors. But it is very interesting.

Hartmut Dorgerloh: There is a new director at the Royal Collection. He will begin in January 2018. He worked for the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and Sir John Soane's Museum. He worked many years for the National Trust.

Axel Harms: I think we should probably wait to see if they apply. But if they do, yes.

BUDGET

2017 Annual accounts - 2018/2019 Provisional operating budget

António Nunes Pereira: The 2017 annual accounts are quite good. It looks like we will have a surplus, around 28 000 euros. Elena prepared the list of the different expenses of the Network. The budget is not closed yet. I think we should discuss all the money issues, not in December, but during the first meeting of the Year, when the budget is closed and we have all the expenses. It would make sense.

We had extra expenses with EPICO (10 000 euros) in 2017. We will have this extra money for ECHY (10 000) in 2018.

Decision Summary

ACTIVITIES 2017/2018

1) International symposium on Preventive Conservation / EPICO program

- Danilo Forleo, in charge of the EPICO program, could be invited to present EPICO in greater detail during one of our next meetings (board / GA)
- The second phase of the EPICO program could be on the agenda of the General Assembly.
- An official letter will be sent to members to invite them to be more active for the second phase of EPICO

2) 2017 / 2018 Technical meetings

- Analyze past technical meetings in order to identify how to innovate and consider organizing a meeting periodically when the members are interested in a particular subject
- Spread a call before the end of the year in order to identify members and topics for 2019 TM. This information will be used to prepare the next board
- Communicate regularly the changes of directors within the network
- Spread the information coming from Europa Nostra and Culture Action Europe to the directors and main contacts. They will then decide how to proceed for the following newsletters

3) Proposal from La Venaria Reale for 2018

- The Network cannot fund the project of Andrea Merlotti but the Secretariat could help him with communication. Laurent Salomé would be in charge of announcing it to him

4) ECHY 2018

- Fix a common strategy with Elzbieta Grygiel and Axel Harms before the launch of the year. (With a quotation from Catherine Pégard + a brochure with the help of the team of Versailles)
- Contact Christina Schindler to invite some members of the board
- Find the official logo of ECHY and spread it to members with all the information. (Network own logo + European logo / Members' own logo)
- Spread the information about the event in Germany (Europa Nostra assembly)
- Possibility to organize the next winter board meeting in Abu Dhabi

ENLARGEMENT

- For the Imperial Museum of Petropolis, António Nunes Pereira will write to them to initiate contact
- For Royal Collections, ask John Barnes about the new Director and wait for an application
- Prepare a list with palaces outside Europe with strong links with European history (in the same situation as the Imperial Palace of Petropolis)
- Please note: it has been signaled that some issues are not clearly defined in our statutes (European Union/Europe; full members/ associate members / Level of fees)

BUDGET

- For 2017, Elena Alliaudi will receive a special bonus and from January 2018, the wages of Elena Alliaudi will be increased (same wages as Céline Delmar)
- The Secretariat will ask, each year, the number of visitors of the members
- The Secretariat will also ask the number of staff of each member