
Thursday, 27.03.2012 12:00 am

Cultural traditions and cultural heritage in the political life of the EU. The European Heritage Legal Forum (EHLF) links the EU Commission and Member States with technical Knowhow

Cultural traditions and Cultural Heritage of people in their local area, in places, cities, regions, countries such as States, are mainly influenced by the existing, tangible, characteristic buildings and building structures and cultural landscapes. At the same time they are a basis for personal identity as well as community-forming good for all citizens. Cultural heritage is in the whole of Europe also a constant, largely crisis-proof backbone of one of the most important contemporary economic sectors. Bavaria is a clear example of this. The cultural heritage is protected by legislation, international treaties and conventions. Nevertheless, the European-wide debate on climate protection and energy efficiency in general, solar, photovoltaic and windcraft in particular shows us the need, to monitor the fact that the particular cultural heritage is an integral part of sustainable future-shaping developments.

The Bavarian State Conservation Office invites to a press conference with the Secretariat of the European Heritage Legal Forum (EHLF). The Secretariat of the EHLF meets for its spring meeting on 27 March 2012 in the State Office for the Non-governmental Museums in Bavaria, Munich.

The EHLF is a network of public conservation organizations from the Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA). Its job is to throw tested and expert views as an early warning station on the European standard setting, to identify negative trends and implications (impacts) for the protection of cultural heritage in the run-up and respond. It provides a basis for timely and effective intervention by the national competent authorities for the protection of European cultural heritage.

The members of the EHLF try this by a good network of legal and legislative developments in Brussels and Strasbourg at an early stage. Through this feedback in the Member States possibly timely measures there are taken to ensure that the EU in all necessary measures always any necessary special provisions for our cultural heritage are taken which are relevant and necessary to Europe and its citizens essential preservation and survival considering its cultural heritage (see Article 3, paragraph 3 subparagraph. 4 of the Treaty on European Union [EUT], Article 167 EU-Functioning Treaty [TFEU]).

In other words, the EHLF is the "watchdog" of the national monument protection authorities, to be able to ensure that preservation and conservation in Europe have a future.

The EHLF Network is committed to the enforcement of exemptions for listed buildings as part of European legislation. Critical success has been achieved already in the use of historical materials and the mandatory destruction of historic facades in terms of energy efficiency requirements. In addition, the conservation of so-called Stave Churches in Scandinavia and many other medieval wooden structures was accepted.

Leading members of the EHLF will inform about its tasks and its activities. The national representatives of EHLF are often next to the legal framework for the cultural heritage also active in many other areas, such as in the European standardization work in the field of historic preservation (CEN), the cultural heritage research or the development of cost-effective public-private partnership and monument Facility management models. The "Monumentenwacht" is so far a world leader for more cost-effective facilities management model for monuments. Its work provides interested monument owners not only immediate, practical assistance in daily receipt of substantial monuments, but also provides even decisive impetus to the European standardization work in CEN.

Dr. Terje from Oslo Nypan, Senior Adviser im Riksantikvaren, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage of the Kingdom of Norway and spokesman for the Secretariat of the EHLF, comes to talking about these issues. With him will discuss Dr. Michael Henker (Head of the State Office for the Non-governmental Museums in Bavaria in the Bavarian State Conservation Office, President of the Conference of the museum's advice in the Länder [KMBI], a member of ICOM), the other members of the EHLF-Secretariat Orane Proisy (Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Paris), Alexandra D. Warr (English Heritage, London), Jacques Akerboom (Managing Director of Monumentenwacht Noord-Brabant, Netherlands) and Wolfgang Karl Goehner (Senior Lawyer of the Bavarian State Conservation Office, Member of the Executive Committee of the German National Committee for the Protection of Monuments [DNK]) as well as guest Bartosz Skaldawski (Deputy Director of the National Heritage Agency of the Republic of Poland, Warsaw).

The event is moderated by Dr. Michael Henker (Head of the State Office for the Non-governmental Museums in Bavaria in the Bavarian State Conservation Office, President of the Conference of the museum's advice in the Länder [KMBI], a member of ICOM).