

EHLF: Report on the 5th meeting, Wrocław 13 October 2011

On invitation of the Polish EU Council Presidency the 5th meeting of the European Heritage Legal Forum took place in Wrocław on 13 October 2011.

Ms Pilar Barraca de Ramos from Spain was warmly welcomed as a new member of the EHLF and Mr Wolfgang Karl Göhner from Germany will be following Mr Terje Nypan, Norway, as the new chair of the EHLF secretariat.

One of the meeting's main themes was the previous successful work of the EHLF with particular emphasis on the organization's commitment regarding unintended adverse affects and effects of standard EU settings in the fields of health (particularly cancer-causing substances), energy, taxes and construction law. The European architectural and archaeological heritage is a diverse cross-divisional challenge, which requires a more efficient activity and interconnection of national administrations. The EHLF also tries, in cooperation with the EHHF, to support a shift in the administrations of EU member states and organizations and therefore participates in the so-called Belgian Presidency Reflection Group, which represents a platform for leading European organizations in the field of architectural and archaeological heritage.

A keynote speech on the influences of EHLF activities on the national developments on energy efficiency and construction products in Germany resulted in the conclusion, that there is a need for special EU law regulations, which allow member states to implement national laws for architectural heritage protection according to their own judgments.

The country reports once again highlighted the global issues which arise challenges (as in the field of energy efficiency and climate protection) for land and construction sites in all member states.

Currently the European standardization committee CEN / TC 346 "Cultural Heritage" checks the feasibility of a European standard "Energy efficiency in protected buildings" with a newly established working group (TG 15). With these "monument friendly" standards the partly harmful activities, amongst others of "energy consultants", should be raised qualitatively to a professionally acceptable level – also in the field of heritage protection.



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