



European  
Heritage  
Legal  
Forum



Deutsches Nationalkomitee  
für Denkmalschutz



BAYERISCHES LANDESAMT  
FÜR DENKMALPFLEGE

*The Task of the EHLF is "To ensure that improved and timely information on the development and consequences of legal acts developed by the European Union which may pose a potential threat to cultural heritage are conveyed to the national competent authorities."*

**Abstract of the  
LECTURE TO THE 1<sup>st</sup> SESSION of the  
7<sup>th</sup> FULL MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN HERITAGE HEADS FORUM,  
23-26 MAY 2012:  
"THE INTEREST OR THE IMPACT OF THE  
EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ITS  
PROTECTION SUPPORTED ON THE EU LEVEL"**

**by Wolfgang Karl Göhner, Munich**

[http://w-goehner.de/cms/uploads/media/2.62\\_a - Denkmalrecht - Vorträge - 7. EHLF-Konferenz Berlin-Potsdam vom 23.-26.05.2012 - Abstract.pdf](http://w-goehner.de/cms/uploads/media/2.62_a_-_Denkmalrecht_-_Vortrage_-_7._EHLF-Konferenz_Berlin-Potsdam_vom_23.-26.05.2012_-_Abstract.pdf)

The lecture concentrates on the chances, possibilities and future tasks of better or good networking in the EU, in and with the Council of Europe and in and with the Member States of European Economic Area (EEA) in the field of Cultural Heritage. The EHLF aims to ensure improved and timely information on the development and consequences of legal acts in the EU Commission to the EHLF members and their national competent authorities and, moreover to work towards a permanent European-wide system that monitors all legislative bills being planned for implementation by the European Union. The EHLF will act as an early warning system for identifying potential threats posed to Cultural Heritage by planned European legislation – far beyond the fields of Culture and Cultural Heritage!

This is of special importance because the potential consequences of decisions at EU level for Cultural Heritage – f. e. in the fields of Energy Efficiency, European Fundings, European Research Programmes etc. – are still neglected

much to often. Furthermore, too much emphasis is placed on the economic dimension of heritage. On the other side the way EU's excellence in this field could and should be better used in our external relations and for opening up new markets.

Another political approach should be promoted which gives priority to the creation of a "European home" for all its citizens. This can only be achieved if the maintenance, preservation, protection and promotion of the architectural and archaeological heritage are safe in all the European regions and Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA). This would be an addition and a supporting of the policies of the Member States and regions in the towns and villages, in the regions, in the Member States and not at least in Europe. This applies to all fields of EU policy, so the Work Programme 2012 of the EU Commission should be transformed into a Work Programme not only seen through an economic pair of glasses. I am sure a "bottom up" view can and will be developed, starting from the "local home" right to the "European home" and vice versa. To work on the last, is also a core task of the EU according to the European Treaties, and so it is for all the forces in the field of Cultural Heritage, especially for the EHHF and the EHLF.

The national and European policies should have the unwavering willingness and courage, to say "yes" to "Europe", unconfined. We should not let ourselves be guided by fear. We should be spurred by the challenge of economic and financial crisis and develop creative powers. "Living with built and archaeological Cultural Heritage, to exploit it creatively and sensefully, is one of Europe's most important creative forces. These forces must be concentrated; a collaboration at all levels of urban policies, Cultural Heritage and Culture with the scientific and economic fields must be intended.

The European Heritage Year 1975 was themed "A future for our past." The year 2012 should finally be the occasion for the recognition that nothing has changed in this set-up and challenge, it only requires the specification:

**"A European future for our past and identity"!**

*Wolfgang Karl Göhner, Munich*

Permanent Senior Legal Adviser of the  
Bavarian State Conservation Office (BLfD)  
President of the Working Group on Law and Taxes of the  
German National Committee on the Protection of Monuments (DNK)  
Member of the Secretariat & German Representative  
in the European Heritage Legal Forum (EHLF)  
Member of the German Mirror Committee  
"Protection of Cultural Heritage" (CEN/TC 346)  
Visiting Lecturer of the Otto-Friedrich-University Bamberg  
Vice-President of the Union of Higher  
Civil Servants in Bavaria (VHBB) e. V.  
Homepage: <http://w-goehner.de> (Jurisprudence,  
Monument Protection Laws, Publications)