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## Document of Pavia

The committee of NSCG received a report on the European summit held in Pavia October last year titled 'Preservation of Cultural Heritage - Towards a European Profile of Conservator-Restorers'. The report contained a 'Document' which we were invited to support and accept. One of the positive points noted was the inclusion and recognition of natural science conservation (see item 2). It was proposed to discuss the document our AGM meeting in Liverpool.

The following is the document and attached comments received from the summit, printed here in their entirety:

Forty five experts of the conservation and restoration sector coming from 16 European countries met in Pavia from 18th to 22nd October 1997, at the invitation of the Associazione Secco Suardo non-governmental organisation. The latter is the leader of the project which is financed by the European Union within the framework of the preparatory actions of the 1996 Raphael Programme, and is partnered by the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Faculté de

Philosophie at Lettres, Section d'Histoire de l'Art (Belgium); the Hochschule für Bildende Kunst, Dresden (Germany); the Hamilton Kerr Institute of the University of Cambridge (England); Museums & Galleries Commission (England); the Ecole Nationale du Patrimoine IFROA Paris, Ministry for Cultural and Environmental Heritage, the National Research Council, the Regione Lombardia, and the Province, Commune and University of Pavia also contributed. Patronage was also granted by various European and international institutes and non-governmental organisations. The European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers Organisations (E.C.C.O.) was present, thanks to the participation of Pierre Masson and Nathalie Ravenel.

The work was organised on the basis of the following topics: historical perspectives, present and future professional conservator-restorer of cultural heritage, training standards in Europe, definition of the term "competent professional"; the growth of awareness on a public level, both professional and political. To conclude, the Pavia Document was drawn up, discussed and approved

(21 October 1997). This document is dedicated to identifying common guidelines to be proposed to the Community institutions for the adoption of concrete measures.

From the first day on, the E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines became the reference point during debates, and was inserted as the basic document into the final declaration.

The 45 experts from the various disciplines who operate in the Conservation and Restoration sector and who were involved on this occasion thus gave proof of a perfect and greatly desired interdisciplinary co-operation.

On the last day, the Associazione Secco Suardo and the participants presented the final document to the politics and the public. A message sent by the Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Walter Veltroni, was read. It represents a very positive reaction and an important political support for future European initiatives.

Here as follows is the Pavia Document

*Nathalie Ravenel*  
*General Secretary, E.C.C.O.*

## THE DOCUMENT OF PAVIA

CONSIDERING that the cultural heritage, both movable and immovable, is a cornerstone of European cultural identity, an identity which respects both national and regional diversities;

CONSIDERING the special nature of this heritage its finite nature, the moral obligation to guarantee access to it for present and future generations and to raise awareness of its origins, history, vulnerability and preservation amongst professionals, the public and decision makers;

CONSIDERING that it is necessary to ensure the highest level of conservation - restoration for cultural heritage, is that which is capable of guaranteeing its integrity and prolonging its existence;

CONSIDERING that this high level of conservation - restoration depends on the professional status of the conservator - restorer being given urgent recognition at a European level;

CONSIDERING that the conservator - restorer must be part of the decision-making process from

the outset of a conservation-restoration project and that he/she must assume, in collaboration with the other partners involved, the responsibilities which relate to his/her own competence (in particular diagnosis, prescription, implementation and documentation of treatment).

The experts concerned with the conservation - restoration of cultural heritage, meeting in Pavia, 18-22 October 1997, recommend that, on the basis of the document prepared by the professional bodies (E.C.C.O. "Professional Guidelines") the European Unions in collaboration with all the specialists in the field, should encourage the following actions:

1. The recognition and promotion of conservation-restoration as a discipline covering all categories of cultural property and taught at university level or recognised equivalent, with the possibility of a doctorate.

2. The development of Interdisciplinary exchange between conservator-restorers and exponents of the humanities and the natural sciences both in teaching and in research.

3. The development of the profile of the conservator-restorer based on the E.C.C.O. professional guidelines (93/94), of his/her role in decision-making from the outset of a project and of his/her responsibility for communicating with other professionals, the public and decision-makers.

4. The development of a definition at European level of the full range of professional competences of the conservator-restorer.

5. The avoidance of the proliferation of training programmes which do not meet the standards of the profession.

6. The assurance of an appropriate balance of integrated theoretical and practical teaching, as well as the teaching of strategies for communication in the education and training of the conservator-restorer.

7. The setting up of a comparative study by the profession of the different educational systems (objectives, contents and levels).

9. The promotion of improved dissemination of information by

means of publication of conservation-restoration projects.

10. The promotion of research in conservation-restoration.

11. The establishment of a regulatory framework to guarantee the quality of intervention on cultural heritage or its environment in order to avoid the negative impacts of market forces. This regulatory framework will include, in particular, provisions concerning:

i) The competence of enterprises or teams of professionals in charge of conservation-restoration projects.

ii) The drafting of specifications for conservation-restoration projects.

12. The publication of a multilingual glossary prepared on the basis of the conceptual definitions to be found in the professional literature.

13. The provision of appropriate resources to ensure improved communication between professionals, the public and the decision-makers.

The experts gathered in Pavia urge the Institutions of the EU to

demonstrate their commitment to the preservation of the cultural heritage by translating these recommendations into tangible co-ordinated actions.

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#### **COMMENTS TO THE PAVIA DOCUMENT**

Regarding the Pavia Document I would like to stress its importance. The group of eminent experts consisted of scientists, curators, art historians, cultural heritage directors, teachers, representatives of conservation institutes and international organisations and last but not least, some conservator-restorers. It was the practical application of the interdisciplinary principle in our field.

The in-depth work and lively debate of this learned assembly led to recognition of the existence and irreplaceable and essential value of E.C.C.O.'s "Professional Guidelines".

The text that was unanimously adopted after the meeting, "The Pavia Document", includes the essence of the ideas defended by our organization and is explicitly based on our "Professional Guidelines".