

Declaration of AEERPA on the Report Diaconu

The Association Européenne des Entreprises de Restauration du Patrimoine Architectural (AEERPA) would like to share its satisfaction for the initiative of the European institutions: the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, who proposed, developed and adopted an ambitious document engaged about European cultural heritage “Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe”;

Is grateful for the contribution realized by the European Parliament and the European Committee of the Regions and for the open attitude and willingness to engage in dialogue of Mrs. Silvia Costa, president of the Culture and Education Commission of the European Parliament, and specially to its rapporteur Mr. Mircea Diaconu, vice-president of the Commission. Thanks to his proposals, several issues and objectives that have not always been present in the historical and cultural heritage approach have been highlighted and introduced.

Especially **appreciates**:

- ❖ The integrated approach of the historical heritage that facilitates a better comprehension of the preservation policies and a mutual relation between his various components;
- ❖ The need a rigorous approach of the European initiatives on historical heritage, which are compatible with respect towards cultural diversity and with national and regional competences;
- ❖ The recognition of cultural heritage as a motor of the Strategy 2020 for economic growth and employment, its interdependence with tourism, environmental, educational, high qualified employment and research policies;

- ❖ The creation of a single EU portal in order to gather information about cultural heritage, preservation of best practices and financing possibilities, and the progression of the digitization of cultural heritage, so that both initiatives facilitate a simple and clear access to all existing data about European cultural heritage to wide public;
- ❖ The attention given to quality and excellence of restoration practices, the recognition of the importance of skills and traditional and innovative techniques and the need to maintain the “quality of service and high-level professional skills, the existence of well-trained specialists [...]” (44);
- ❖ The request to the European Commission to insist for “the need for new governance models to include a system of quality control in all alternative forms of funding and administration of cultural heritage” (19);
- ❖ The development of measures of economic and financial support for architectural heritage restoration and for the SMEs dedicated to this activity, including the contents in the report of Mr. Mircea Diaconu that “considers that unnecessary burdens on SMEs should be abolished for the sake of their competitiveness” (44)

Calls the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Member States to:

- ❖ Promote the elaboration of “an economic and statistical survey of businesses, management entities and specialist professional activities in the cultural heritage conservation and promotion sector and the specific contribution in terms of production and job creation” (38);

- ❖ Verify whether Member States correctly apply the Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on public procurement that requires the recognition of the classification of companies with the technical capacity to accomplish sustainable restorations, recommending to all the Member States the elaboration of a system that allows to “classify companies and entities involved in the various aspects of heritage conservation as constituting a specific sector, using traditional methods with added value that facilitate ecological and sustainable conservation” (34);
- ❖ Facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications and training focusing on architectural heritage restoration and others professions related to such activity;
- ❖ Open the Erasmus program, mobility and training programs to all the historical heritage restoration experts and the dual *o par alternance* training, now that the apprenticeship in our employees company represents our tradition;
- ❖ Create a cluster addressed to companies dedicated to cultural heritage restoration that recognizes the specific nature of this sector and has an active presence in the European Neighbourhood Policy and in the technical cooperation with other countries.

The AEERPA association thanks the labor of the European institutions in favor of cultural heritage and offers its active support and its knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set in the documents adopted by the European Parliament.