



Declaration on the Report Diaconu
14/10/2015

The Association Européenne des Entreprises de Restauration du Patrimoine Architectural (AEERPA) would like to share her satisfaction for the initiative of the European institutions: the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, that lies in propose, develop and pass 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 his rapporteur Mr. Mircea Diaconu, vice-president of such Commission. Thanks to his proposals, some issues and objectives that not always have been present in the historical and cultural heritage approach could have been highlighted and introduced.

Appreciates specially:

- ❖ 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 to deal rigorously with the European initiatives about the historical heritage, compatible with the respect to cultural diversity and with national and regional competences;



- ❖ The reconnaissance of the cultural heritage as a motor of the Strategy 2020 for the economic growth and the employment, his interdependence with tourism, environmental, education, high qualified employment and research policies;
- ❖ The creation of a single EU portal in order to gather the information about cultural heritage, preservation best practices and financing possibilities, and the progression of the digitization of cultural heritage, as so both initiatives facilitate a simple and clear access to all the data about European cultural heritage to wide public;
- ❖ The attention given to quality and excellence of restoration practices, the reconnaissance of the control of the 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 “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 the measures of economic and financial support for the historical and architectural heritage restoration and for the SME dedicated to this activity, included 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 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 if the Member States apply correctly the Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on public procurement that requires the reconnaissance of the classification of the companies with technical capacity to accomplish a sustainable restoration, 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 reconnaissance of the professional qualifications and the architectural heritage restoration specialized training and others professions related with such activity;
- ❖ Open the Erasmus program, mobility and training programs to all the historical heritage restoration experts and the dual or *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 the cultural heritage and offers his active support and his knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives set in the documents passed by the European Parliament.