

## FRH PRESS RELEASE

### FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture lit again at the European Landscape Forum on 24 February in Aschaffenburg, Germany

26 February 2018

**The FRH Torch, a memory treasure box carrying personal stories related to religious heritage, is continuing its journey around Europe. Part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the FRH Torch is a unique opportunity to involve people more closely with religious heritage.**

**ASCHAFFENBURG, DE** - After its successful launch in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, last month, [the FRH Torch](#) was hosted in Aschaffenburg, Germany, where it collected stories from six new contributors at the [European Landscape Forum](#) organised by [CIVILSCAPE](#) on 23-26 February.

On Saturday, **24 February at 9:30 am**, the FRH Torch was lit again and new contributions were added to the ever-expanding collection of memories. We are proud to announce that among the contributors were **Mr. Winfried Bausback**, State Minister of Justice of Bavaria; **Dr. Inge Gotzmann**, President of CIVILSCAPE and Director of Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU); **Ms. Andrea Lindholz**, Member of the German Parliament; **Dr. Martin Kares**, musicologist, consultant for musical instruments, Karlsruhe; **Dr. Gerhard Ermischer**, President of the Archäologisches Spessartprojekt (ASP); and **Mr. Dirk Gotzmann**, Director of CIVILSCAPE. We are truly delighted that they decided to join the initiative. The letters will soon be available for perusal on [www.frh-europe.org](http://www.frh-europe.org).

As of today, it is also possible to contribute with a letter via the FRH Torch website ([www.frh-europe.org/projects/frh-torch](http://www.frh-europe.org/projects/frh-torch)). All those interested in the initiative are invited to send their memory to FRH. As stated by **Professor Michael Dower**, co-author of the European Landscape Convention, who spontaneously decided to contribute to the Torch at the Forum, [...] *the rich and diverse heritage of religious buildings, lands, artifacts, traditions and stories which are rooted in Europe [...] contribute enormously to the character of landscapes and of communities in Europe, to local diversity and communal pride, and to the unifying consciousness of this continent.*

#### On the FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture

Inspired by the Olympic Torch of Athens, FRH launched the “[Torch of Heritage and Culture](#)” initiative at the beginning of 2018, the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#). The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of Europe’s rich religious heritage. The FRH Torch is a memory treasure box, containing personal letters from prominent members of the international community but also from European citizens

#### Future for Religious Heritage

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themselves. These letters, contributed during an official Torch ceremony held at various events all over Europe, describe personal memories related to religious heritage.

The journey of the FRH Torch will end at the FRH Biennial Conference (Paris, 11-12-13 October 2018), during which the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, will be presented with the box and its valuable contents.

### **On Future for Religious Heritage (FRH)**

Founded in 2008, [Future for Religious Heritage](http://www.frh-europe.org) is the only European network for historic places of worship, bringing together those who work to protect religious heritage across Europe. A not-for-profit, non-religious organisation, FRH is proud to represent nearly 150 members in Europe and beyond.

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### **For further information:**

- FRH Torch Initiative: [www.frh-europe.org/projects/frh-torch](http://www.frh-europe.org/projects/frh-torch)
- FRH Torch video: <http://bit.ly/2GHfwuq>
- European Landscape Forum: <http://european.landscape-forum.eu>

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