

EUROPEAN
HERITAGE
HEADS
FORUM

21-23 May 2014

BELGIUM



Dear colleagues

With the coming of Spring, we take great pleasure in announcing our annual rendezvous which will be held this year in Belgium.

The Belgian regional administrations in charge of cultural heritage have joined to welcome you on this special occasion and offer a programme which, we hope, will arouse your interest. The theme of this year is heritage in urban context. We chose this topic for several reasons. First, it comes in the continuity of the conference organised by our Dutch colleagues in 2011 about changes in rural heritage. Second, urban questions have a central part in the current European agenda. Last but not least, it will allow us to develop original ideas on archaeology in urban context, the role of contemporary architecture in historic city centres, the urban approach to energy performance challenges, or the threats and opportunities of tourism in historic cities.

Some novelties will be introduced during this edition 2014. You have already received an online questionnaire in January about urban heritage. The results will be presented during a plenary session on the 23rd of May and will allow us to bring out some trends on the state of heritage in our cities. We also decided to open up to new partners by giving NGOs specialised in urban heritage the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

The venue will be in the town of Louvain (Leuven in Dutch) which carries a significant historical value. Louvain comprises one of the oldest universities in Europe. Our working sessions will take place in the Great Beguinage where used to live a community of pious women back in the 17th century. It was one of the first Belgian sites to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

You will have the opportunity to discover this town full of charm at our welcoming reception; while the excursion planned on the second day will lead you to a central place in Europe's history: Waterloo Battlefield, which is currently preparing to celebrate its bicentenary. We will visit the panorama of the Battle and have a walk near the famous Lion's Mound to get some fresh air before ending the day in one of the most beautiful farms of Wallonia, la Ramée Abbey. During the dinner, we will have the privilege to listen to Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council.

Again, may we take this opportunity to extend a cordial invitation to you from our country.

We are looking forward to welcoming you.

Your hosts and chairs,

Sonja Vanblaere
Administrator General,
Heritage Agency,
Flanders



Pierre Paquet
General Inspector,
Department of Heritage,
Wallonia



The historical site of the **Groot Begijnhof** in the city of Leuven was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1998. The *Béguines* were women who dedicated their lives to God without retiring from the world. In the 13th century, they founded the *béguinages* which are enclosed communities designed to meet their spiritual and material needs.

The Groot Begijnhof is a well preserved and completely restored historical quarter of 3 hectares containing a dozen of streets. With almost 100 houses, it is one of the largest still existing beguinages in the Low Countries. It stretches on both sides of the river Dijle, which splits into two canals inside the *béguinage*, thus forming an island. Three bridges connect the parts of the beguinage.



The 9th EHHF Annual Meeting will take place in the Faculty Club which is a unique conference and banqueting centre situated within the Groot Begijnhof. The plenary sessions will be held in the attic of the Convent of Chièvres which was built in 1561. The room illustrates the remarkable craftsmanship of 16th century carpenters, who had a perfect understanding of balanced, stable and durable structures and a thorough knowledge of their materials. Lunch will be served in the beguinage's Infirmary which dates back to the 13th century and was renovated in the 17th century.

The Groot Begijnhof is a pedestrian zone and a walking-friendly area. However, please note that the streets are paved with authentic cobblestones (*adequate shoes recommended*).

Wednesday 21 May 2014

- 17:00** Meet at the lobby of the Begijnhof Hotel Leuven
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- 17:30** Guided tour in the Groot Begijnhof and walk towards the Louvain town hall
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- 19:00** Reception in the Louvain town hall and welcome by the host country
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Programme

Theme 2014 : Cultural heritage in urban context

Attendance is strictly by invitation only

Thursday 22 May 2014

- 08:30** Coffee, tea, snacks. Registration. Convent of Chièvres
-
- 9:00** Welcome address Sonja Vanblaere, Administrator General Flanders Heritage Agency
Presentation of the day programme
-
- 9:10** **Introduction of the theme**
1. Mechtild Rossler, deputy director World Heritage Centre, UNESCO *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*
2. Carmen Willems, Former Mayor of Tongres, Director Gallo-Roman Museum *Managing an historic city in the 21st century, a politician's point of view*
-
- 10:00** **Workshops session**, Convent of Chièvres
1. Archaeology in urban historical context
2. Contemporary architecture in urban historical context
3. Energy performance in urban historical context
4. Tourism in urban historical context
-
- 12:30** Lunch, Infirmerie of the Faculty Club
-
- 14:00** **Plenary report of the workshop recommendations in preparation of the Final Statement of Louvain**
Chair: Sonja Vanblaere
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- 15:00** Coffee, tea, snacks
-
- 15:15** **Excursion**
Departure by bus to Waterloo
-
- 16:00** **Visit the site of Waterloo Battlefield**
-
- 18:00** Transport from Waterloo to La Ramée Abbey by bus
-
- 19:00** **Dinner at La Ramée Abbey**, La Grange dimière
Allocution by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy,
President of the European Council
-
- 22:00** Return to the hotel by bus
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 *Closed session*

Friday 23 May 2014

LEUVEN

08:30 Coffee, tea, snacks. Convent of Chièvres

9:00 Presentation of the day programme
Chair: Pierre Paquet, General Inspector of the Department of Heritage, Wallonia

9:10 Results of the online questionnaire on "Heritage in urban context"

*Luc Van Havere, Adviser Flanders Heritage Agency
Gislaine Devillers, Adviser Department of Heritage, Wallonia*

9:30 EHHF member countries, urban heritage management - case studies

1. The Netherlands (Cees Van't Veen)
2. Greece (Nikoletta Divari-Valakou)
3. Norway (Terje Nypan)
4. Spain (Pilar Barraca de Ramos)

11:10 Coffee, tea, snacks

11:30 NGO sector, urban heritage management - case studies

1. Organisation of World Heritage Cities (Matthias Ripp)
2. European Council of Spatial Planners (Luc-Emile Bouche-Florin)

12:00 Lunch, Infirmerie of the Faculty Club

13:30 Reports and developments, European topics

1. European Commission, DG EAC (Claire-lyse Chambron, Erminia Sciacchitano)
2. Council of Europe (Claudia Luciani)
3. Reflection Group (Bruno Favel)

14:30 Plenary discussion

Chair: Simon Thurley, Chief executive English Heritage

1. EHLF (Wolfgang Karl Göhner)
2. Task Force on Economics (Alexandra Warr)
3. Final Statement of Louvain

15:30 Closing session

Presentation of next year's meeting, handover of Troika members

16:30 END



 Begijnhof Hotel

 City Hall

 Convent of Chièvres

 Train Station

 Faculty Club

Once arrived at the Leuven Station, you may reach the Begijnhof Hotel (Groot Begijnhof 15, 3000 Leuven) on foot, by taxi or by bus (lines 1, 2, 337, and 600). The Begijnhof Hotel is at 2-minute walk from the Convent of Chièvres.

It is recommended to leave some space in your luggage for the souvenirs.

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Hosts



Partners



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