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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