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the outset of a conservation-restoration project and that he/she must assume, in collaboration with the other partners involved, the responsibilities which relate to his/her own competence (in particular diagnosis, prescription, implementation and documentation of treatment).

The experts concerned with the conservation - restoration of cultural heritage, meeting in Pavia, 18-22 October 1997, recommend that, on the basis of the document prepared by the professional bodies (E.C.C.O. "Professional Guidelines") the European Unions in collaboration with all the specialists in the field, should encourage the following actions:

1. The recognition and promotion of conservation-restoration as a discipline covering all categories of cultural property and taught at university level or recognised equivalent, with the possibility of a doctorate.

2. The development of Interdisciplinary exchange between conservator-restorers and exponents of the humanities and the natural sciences both in teaching and in research.

3. The development of the profile of the conservator-restorer based on the E.C.C.O. professional guidelines (93/94), of his/her role in decision-making from the outset of a project and of his/her responsibility for communicating with other professionals, the public and decision-makers.

4. The development of a definition at European level of the full range of professional competences of the conservator-restorer.

5. The avoidance of the proliferation of training programmes which do not meet the standards of the profession.

6. The assurance of an appropriate balance of integrated theoretical and practical teaching, as well as the teaching of strategies for communication in the education and training of the conservator-restorer.

7. The setting up of a comparative study by the profession of the different educational systems (objectives, contents and levels).

9. The promotion of improved dissemination of information by

means of publication of conservation-restoration projects.

10. The promotion of research in conservation-restoration.

11. The establishment of a regulatory framework to guarantee the quality of intervention on cultural heritage or its environment in order to avoid the negative impacts of market forces. This regulatory framework will include, in particular, provisions concerning:

i) The competence of enterprises or teams of professionals in charge of conservation-restoration projects.

ii) The drafting of specifications for conservation-restoration projects.

12. The publication of a multilingual glossary prepared on the basis of the conceptual definitions to be found in the professional literature.

13. The provision of appropriate resources to ensure improved communication between professionals, the public and the decision-makers.

The experts gathered in Pavia urge the Institutions of the EU to

demonstrate their commitment to the preservation of the cultural heritage by translating these recommendations into tangible co-ordinated actions.

COMMENTS TO THE PAVIA DOCUMENT

Regarding the Pavia Document I would like to stress its importance. The group of eminent experts consisted of scientists, curators, art historians, cultural heritage directors, teachers, representatives of conservation institutes and international organisations and last but not least, some conservator-restorers. It was the practical application of the interdisciplinary principle in our field.

The in-depth work and lively debate of this learned assembly led to recognition of the existence and irreplaceable and essential value of E.C.C.O.'s "Professional Guidelines".

The text that was unanimously adopted after the meeting, "The Pavia Document", includes the essence of the ideas defended by our organization and is explicitly based on our "Professional Guidelines".

As a result:

1. Finally, most professions involved with conservation have officially examined, approved and recognised our official documents.

2. Finally, with one single voice, they have given their support to the claims of our profession.

3. This document, adopted during a European Summit sponsored by the European Union and DGX, can henceforth be used in our external relations. It will carry great weight in our fight for recognition of the profession.

I do believe that this will become a historic document, which will mark an important step in the development of our craft.

On behalf of E.C.C.O., I would like to thank the Secco Suardo Foundation, its associates and all participants for the work that has been done and the support they gave us.

Within E.C.C.O., this recognition is welcome and heartening to all those who have dedicated themselves to this fight since the beginning. At a time when many of the pioneers have or will be handing over to others, this means

recognition of the quality of work done under difficult circumstances, and it also means encouragement to the new team to continue the fight and renew their efforts on the basis of this Pavia Document, which I recommend you all to read.

P. Masson
President, E.C.C.O.



The Ten Agents of Deterioration

An issue by issue guide to the risks facing
museum collections



4. Theft & Vandalism