

**ICOMOS**  
**International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**April 9, 2021**  
**Via ZOOM**

Present were:

**PRESIDENT**

Claus-Peter ECHTER, Germany

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Samir ABDULAC, France

Faika BEJAOUI, Tunisia

Zhang JIE, China

Danuta KLOSEK-KOZLOWSHA, Poland

David LOGAN, Australia

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Kathleen CROWTHER, USA

**HONORARY EXPERT MEMBERS**

Sofia AVGERINO KOLONIAS, Greece

Alvaro GOMEZ-FERRER BAYO, Spain

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Eman ASSI, UAE

Paula CORDEIRO, BELGIUM

Elena DIMITROVA, BULGARIA

Yuksel DINCER, TURKEY

Gergerly NAGY, Hungary

Hae UN RII, KOREA

Ofelia SANOU, COSTA RICA

Pal Anders STENSSON, SWEDEN

**Also in Attendance**

Jobadiah CHRISTIANSEN, USA

Margaret LANN, USA

1. The meeting began with a remembrance of CIVVIH member, Olga Sevan of Russia who recently and unexpectedly passed away. She was fondly recalled. Several moments of silence were provided to honor her memory.
2. Approval of the Revised Agenda: All present approved the revised Agenda. The following topics represents the core of the Bureau meeting. Please see the CIVVIH website for attachments.

3. Updating Valletta Principals: Sofia AVGERINO KOLONIAS presented in PowerPoint form an overview on her work, and that of Álvaro Gómez-Ferrer Bayo, on the updating of the Valletta Principles. The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas is a document developed by CIVVIH and adopted in 2011. Since then, the Valletta Principles has been translated into 16 different languages. (Added was Hungarian language.) The purpose of the update project is to integrate new concepts and information into the principles, such as the Historic Urban Landscape, climate change, risk preparedness and the sustainable development goals. Sofia and Álvaro have spent many hours considering the ways to update the Principles, and they are now ready for the wider participation of the Working Group, Bureau and Executive. Sofia presented a timeline with the ultimate end-date of having the Principles finalized in time for formal adoption at the Annual Meeting of CIVVIH in November, 2021.

It was reported to the Executive that responses from the members of the Bureau were very favorable. David Logan and others commented that the draft is excellent. Minor recommendations were made for legibility. Discussion ensued regarding translations. In particular, native English speakers are needed to fine-tune the English version. The French version might also require early fine-tuning. Danuta Klosek-Kozłowska suggested an increased emphasis on urban design and public spaces. The Executive agreed to the recommended time table.

4. Declaration & Book of Papers of the Virtual Mediterranean Sub-committee Meeting: Claus-Peter Echter asked for the Executive's input on the work of the Mediterranean Sub-committee. A book of papers (not abstracts) was approved by the Bureau for posting on the CIVVIH website. The Sub-committee also presented Declarations concluding their proceedings. The declarations are in English and French and require fine-tuning of the languages. Kathleen Crowther will assist with the English and Samir Abdulac will assist with the French. Once this is completed, the declarations will be reviewed by Claus-Peter and may be sent to the ICOMOS Secretariat.

Paula CORDEIRO asked if the proceeding was recorded. She was not informed of the meeting and would now like to view a recording, if it is available. Claus-Peter did not think a recording is available. If it is not available, he will request that the PowerPoint presentations be provided. These can be converted to PDFs and posted on the CIVVIH website. He will speak with Teresa Colletta, Chair of the Mediterranean Sub-committee. Kathleen Crowther recommended that all sub-committees be required to inform the full CIVVIH membership of their meetings. It was a pity that the CIVVIH membership was not properly invited to the meeting, especially since it was virtual, these is a greater ease in participation.

The Executive approved of the materials being posted on the website, after the fine-tuning is completed.

5. Report of the President: Claus-Peter Echter presented a comprehensive "Report of the President" in the PowerPoint format. The 20-page presentation testifies to the work of CIVVIH and its President. New reports released since November, 2020, include ICOMOS's Sustainable Development Goals Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors. (For further information please follow the link: <https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals/91455-icomos-releases-sustainable-development-goals-policy-guidance-for-heritage-and-development-actors>) and Putting Europe's shared heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal. (For further information please follow the link: <https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/climate-change/91544-putting-europe-s-shared-heritage-at-the-heart-of-the-european-green-deal>.)

Claus-Peter has represented CIVVIH to the World Urban Campaign's Call to Action 2021, reviewed by UN-Habitat and finalized in March, 2021. At the request of ICOMOS President Teresa Patriciao, Claus-Peter substituted for her at the International Conference of Eurasia World Heritage Cities, City of Turkistan (Republic of Kazakhstan) April 2, 2021. David has been invited to represent ICOMOS and CIVVIH to be part of the Scientific Committee for the 2021 World Congress of OWHC.

Some nine-months after CIVVIH submitted its proposed new Bylaws, the Board of ICOMOS has approved them. CIVVIH is one of 16 (out of 29) ISCs which have complied with this request. CIVVIH's membership continues to increase, and communication to and among the members is on the rise. CIVVIH's partnership with the Organization of World Heritage Cities kicks into gear with Samir Abdulac's participation on the jury for the Jean L'Allier Prize.

Communication with CIVVIH members has steadily increased via various methods. CIVVIH's Facebook page continues to grow in size, and is expected to reach 1,000 members in the near future. Claus-Peter thanked Paula CORDEIRO for her production of the excellent CIVVIH newsletter. Again, members are asked to submit papers and materials that relate to heritage to Paula for the next issue.

One area that needs work is in the realm of attracting Emerging Professionals. CIVVIH has the participation of Rugile BALKAITĖ from Lithuania, despite the issues related to that country's National Committee. Unfortunately Rugile was not present today, but she has been involved. This area needs strengthening.

Claus-Peter discussed the CIVVIH's participation in the World Heritage nomination process. Last year CIVVIH has not been represented on the panel. Desk reviews and requests for missions related to nomination may be forthcoming. Pal Anders STENSSON indicated that he is very familiar with the nomination from Latvia, Kuldīga / Goldingen in Courland. He is willing to assist with this evaluation. Claus-Peter will contact him at the appropriate time.

Additional recent meetings include ICOMOS Virtual General Assembly (2020/12), CIHIB Virtual Meeting (2020/12/01), and a webinar of our Mediterranean Subcommittee Meeting (2021/02/12). Ofelia SANOU has participated in the CIHIB meeting, and will continue to do so.

CIVVIH's Annual Meeting in November, 2021, was discussed. Paula Cordeiro explained that she does not have the support of ICOMOS Belgium to host a meeting in Brussels this year due to the risk of the pandemic. She can host in 2022. It was therefore decided that the CIVVIH Annual Meeting will be virtual again in November, 2021. A date will be forthcoming after discussion with Kathleen Crowther who will host the meeting. Last Annual Meeting CIVVIH had some 50 participants. There will be no symposium, but elections will be held.

Discussion ensued regarding other sub-committee meetings. Zhang JIE indicated that he thinks there will be a small Asia-Pacific meeting also in November, and that the larger meeting will return for 2022. As far as we know, there will not be a meeting of the Eastern Europe sub-committee.

Claus-Peter recommended and received support for CIVVIH's involvement with a conference of ICOMOS Germany related to Post-War Heritage of Art and Architecture in Post-Socialist Countries - Integrated Urban Approaches to Dissonant Monuments and Sites (2021/07/22 - 23 or 2021/07/26 -

27). In conclusion, CIVVIH is fulfilling all of the requirements of a thriving ISC of ICOMOS. Ofelia Sanou would also like to be involved as she is a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century ISC.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for new leadership. It is a matter of some concern that all of the Bureau (except for Kathleen) must step down. Several of the Executive can remain and run again, but not all and two members, should they be elected, would be in their final 3-year term. David recommended that Claus-Peter ask for CIVVIH members to avail themselves of the leadership opportunities now present. Kathleen Crowther recommended that there be job descriptions developed. Sofia commented that it is not easy to create a job description.

The last topic was that of the website. All were appreciative of Jobadiah Christiansen for his work as the website manager. There is a need for a contemporary website, especially to attract Emerging Professionals. Jobadiah is willing to work on this matter using the Word Press format with which he is familiar. Claus-Peter could still relay the need for assistance on this matter and should a candidate arise, there could be a collaboration between the two. Sofia reminded the Executive that the website is an important repository of CIVVIH history and materials. All agreed with this point, and that a new website will contain this information so that it is not lost.

6. Other: Since comments were interspersed during the report, the meeting concluded on the note of the website.

The meeting was concluded.

Written by Kathleen H. Crowther, Secretary General

Approved by Claus-Peter Echter, President

DATE: April 11, 2021