

MINUTES
OF THE
5TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE OWHC
REGIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE AND
THE MEDITERRANEAN
Cusco, September 21st 2005.

In the framework of the 8th World Symposium of the OWHC, which was held in Cusco, Peru, the following OWHC member representatives of the World Heritage Cities of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean met at 17:00 p.m. on September 21st 2005:

Participants:

- Jesus Dionisio Ballesteros, Mayor of Aranjuez
- Rosa Aguilar Rivero, Mayor of Cordoba
- Jose Manuel Martinez Cenzano, Mayor of Cuenca
- Xose Sanchez Bugallo, Mayor of Santiago de Compostela
- George Giannopoulos, Mayor of Rhodes
- Manuel Romero, Councillor of Aranjuez
- Francisco Tejada Gallegos, Councillor of Cordoba
- Lourdes Costa Torres, Councillor of Ibiza-Eivissa
- Santiago Pizarro, Councillor of Ibiza-Eivissa
- Rafael Becerra Anet, Councillor of La Laguna
- Mercedes Roson, Councillor of Santiago de Compostela
- Concepcion Dominguez, Councillor of Segovia
- Patrice Beghain, Councillor of Lyon
- Lee Minaidis, Councillor of Rhodes
- Doron Sapir, Councillor of Tel Aviv
- Miguel Lima, Councillor of Evora
- Luciano Sanchez, Technician of Aranjuez
- Jose Emilio Guerreiro, Technician of Evora
- Bruno Delas, Responsible for the Historical Site of Lyon
- Paula Roca, Technician of Santiago de Compostela
- Sonsoles Guillen Ruiz de Ayucar, Technician of Avila.
- Danny Kaiser, Technician of Tel Aviv
- Rafael Perez de la Concha Camacho, Regional Coordinator

The Mayor of Cordoba welcomed the participants to this 5th Regional Conference of the Regional Secretariat for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean of the OWHC. She also welcomed the representatives of the city of Tel Aviv (Israel), which has joined our Regional Secretariat. Later on, the Mayor of Cordoba asked the Regional Coordinator to read the Agenda for the meeting.

Rafael Perez de la Concha, Regional Coordinator, read the conclusions reached at the **4th Regional Conference held in Evora, Portugal, in April 2005** and gave information about the level to which these conclusions had been carried out.

The Regional Coordinator reminded the Regional Secretariat about the **joining** of the cities of Ubeda and Baeza, in Jaen (Spain), and Angra do Heroismo, in Portugal, during the Regional Conference of Evora.

Rafael Perez de la Concha let it be known that the Regional Secretariat had sent all member cities several copies of the **Catalogue Guide**, which has been updated and published in the six official languages of the countries in the Regional Secretariat (Spanish, French, English, Portuguese, Italian and Greek) in order for each city to use it and spread its contents.

Regarding **Solidarity Day**, he mentioned the activities that had been carried out on September 8th to commemorate the founding of the Organisation. This year's slogan is "Public roads, streets and squares" where our citizens live and make our Historical Centres come to life. The Regional Coordinator asked the cities which had organised further activities on that Day to inform the Regional Secretariat about them in order that they be included in our web site. In this respect, the Regional Coordinator mentioned the proposal he himself made to the Regional Secretariat the previous day during the Coordinators' meeting. The proposal was focused on the change of that day's name. He argued that the use of the term "Solidarity" can cause confusion among citizens. He proposed to call it "Day of the World Heritage Cities". The Secretary General agreed and this proposal would be made during the next Board of Directors' meeting in order for it to be analysed.

The Regional Coordinator regretted the fact that the Regional Secretariat and its member cities did not manage to comply with one of the agreements reached at the Regional Conference in Evora: to organise a **joint exhibition of the Regional Secretariat member cities** in the framework of this 8th World Symposium in Cusco. The Regional Secretariat sent the materials for the exhibition from Cordoba to Cusco with enough time to be in Cusco at the time of the Symposium. The Secretariat had a lot of materials that member cities had sent previously, which were put together with the materials already present at the Secretariat in order to introduce and spread the importance of our Regional Secretariat. But the transport agency informed the Secretariat that the flight that transported our materials was diverted to Miami due to hurricane Rita and further flights were not authorised because of the hurricane.

He also regretted the lack of commitment within the Organisation in general and within the Regional Secretariat in particular, in particular the lack of commitment of Italian cities, although many invitations to cooperate had been sent to them.

The Regional Coordinator reminded all participants of the importance that each city should **appoint an administrative department or a concrete person to be responsible for the relations and contacts between the city and the Regional Secretariat**. At the same time, he highlighted that it is necessary that

all cities update their information, included in the Regional Secretariat's web site.

He rounded off the comments about Evora's conclusions reminding that an agreement was reached in order to support the **candidature of Cáceres and Segovia to become European City of Culture 2016**. He informed that this agreement would be presented at the General Assembly of the OWHC that would take place the following day. The same procedure was followed when the Regional Secretariat supported Cordoba's candidature at the previous General Assembly held in 2003.

Then, the Regional Coordinator informed about the results of the 2nd **“Surfing through the World Heritage Cities of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean” Internet Competition**. 215 people participated in it. They sent the questionnaire, met the deadline, and answered the questions correctly. He highlighted the diversity of the participants' cities of origin. There were participants from many cities in Spain, Europe and even Canada and Latin America. The award ceremony was held at Cordoba's town hall with the media present. The winner of the competition was participant number 057, whose name is SONIA CARREÑO GALLEJO, from Gijon, Spain. She won the single prize of 1200 euros.

Another project that the Regional Secretariat is carrying out is the **Youth Forum**, created and put into practice according to an agreement reached by the Board of Directors (CA04/COR-9) and addressed to all Regional Secretariats. Its aim is to try to organise a meeting of young people coming from different parts of the world in the framework of the 8th World Symposium in Cusco. Unfortunately, only our Regional Secretariat managed to launch this Youth Forum on the Internet, so the OWHC decided to cancel this project. However, although the Forum of our Regional Secretariat has had a low participation of young people up to now, the Regional Coordinator stated that the Regional Secretariat should maintain the Youth Forum and promote it among young people from member cities as a means to achieve communication and exchange of opinions about World Heritage.

One OWHC project that is indeed having a great share of success is the **“Youth on the Trail of World Heritage”** project. Thanks to it, educational institutions of different World Heritage Cities twin and develop joint activities regarding their cities' heritage. The second edition of this project has 30 participating cities from the OWHC. 13 out of them belong to our Regional Secretariat. This figure represents 43% of the total of the participant cities. It shows our cities' commitment within the OWHC.

The Regional Coordinator informed that **two new cities have been registered on the World Heritage List** during the last UNESCO's General Assembly. These two cities are located in our Region, so we have 60 World Heritage Cities in our Region. We hope that these two new cities become a member of the Regional Secretariat soon. These two cities are Le Havre, France, and Syracuse, Italy.

Again, the Regional Coordinator **welcomed the Israeli city of Tel Aviv to our Regional Secretariat**. The Regional Secretariat has 37 member cities after Tel Aviv's joining. This figure shows that the highest number of World Heritage Cities in the world is concentrated in our Region and our Regional Secretariat.

The Councillor of Tel Aviv gave thanks for the warm welcome his city had received and expressed his desire to cooperate in order to strengthen the role of the Regional Secretariat.

After that, participants proceeded with the election of the date to hold the 6th Regional Conference, which, according to prior arrangement, will take place in Cordoba during the year 2006. After having listened to different contributions, it was agreed that the Conference would take place between the 20th and 30th of September 2006.

The Mayor of Cordoba informed about the organisation of a **Tourism Workshop** to coincide with this Regional Conference. This workshop is coordinated by the city of Rhodes and has the cooperation of the World Tourism Organisation under the slogan "Sustainable Tourism in World Heritage Cities".

Finally, the participants were reminded of the **election procedures** as well as the name of the candidates for the Board of Directors and the name of the candidate cities to hold the 9th World Symposium, which will take place in 2007.

The Mayor of Cordoba made a contribution regarding the last point of the Agenda, "**Comments and Questions**". She made a comment that was shared by most participants in the 8th World Symposium, focused on the difficulties all town councils had had when it came to communication with the company responsible for the organisation of the World Symposium, mainly related to accommodation and registration issues. After some comments that reinforced the Mayor of Cordoba's opinion, it was agreed to thank Cusco Town Council for its efforts, but also express the desire to learn from the mistakes that were made and present this commentary to the Board of Directors.

The Councillor of Lyon asked to express to the Regional Secretariat and the Board of Directors the need to establish a series of criteria upon which to base the election of cities that wish to hold OWHC world symposia in the future. He also suggested the idea that candidate cities present a report that defends the appropriateness of organising a world symposium in their city, such as the level of infrastructure, accommodation capacity, the existence of places with enough capacity to hold large meetings, technology systems, audiovisual equipment, simultaneous interpreting booths, etc.

Finally, information was given about the 2nd Meeting of French Sites registered at the World Heritage List, which would be held in Lyon on December 6th 2005. The Regional Secretariat was invited to attend the meeting in order to promote its role in the Region.

The Mayor of Cordoba thanked French cities for their invitation and confirmed that several representatives of the Regional Secretariat would attend the meeting.

Having dealt with all the points on the Agenda, the meeting finished at 6:40 p.m. on September 21st 2005.

Rafael Perez de la Concha Camacho
REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE OWHC
SOUTHERN EUROPE/ MEDITERRANEAN CITIES