



MINUTES
8th REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN OF THE OWHC
STRASBOURG, 3 – 4 DECEMBER 2008

In the city of Strasbourg (France), the people who represent the Organization of World Heritage Cities for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, had a meeting on 3 December 2008 at 14:30 pm at the Administrative Center of the Urban Community of Strasbourg located in the Parc de l'Etoile (Park of the Star). The representatives of the World Heritage Cities included in the OWHC are listed below:

PARTICIPANTS:

Roland RIES: Mayor of Strasbourg (France).
Ljubo BESLIC: Mayor of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina).
Eric ELKOUBY: Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg (France).
Nawel RAFIK: Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg (France).
Francisco TEJADA: Deputy Mayor of Cordoba (Spain).
Luciano SÁNCHEZ: General Secretary of the Cultural Heritage Foundation of Aranjuez (Spain).
Ana XAVIER: Coordinator of the International Relationship Department of Sintra (Portugal).
Bruno DELAS: Director of the Mission Historical Site, Lyon (France).
Severine ROUTEL: UNESCO Mission, Le Havre (France).
Annie BRASSARD: International Relationship commissioner, Québec (Canada).
Jacques FAGUY: Head of the Territory Management, Québec (Canada).
Kyriakos MAGOS: Architect of Rhodes (Greece).
Anne PARASKEVOPOULOU: Head of the Conservation Service, Rhodes (Greece).
Anne Laure MONIOT: Project Manager, Bordeaux (France).
Dominique CASSAZ: Department of Historical and Urban Heritage, Strasbourg (France).
Lisa ABENSOUR: UNESCO Project, Strasbourg (France).
Cécile BAU: Culture Department, Strasbourg (France).
Fabienne POCHARD: European and International Relationship, Strasbourg (France).
Michaela BOVI: UNESCO Permanent Representative, San Marino.
Lee Minaidis: Interim General Secretary of the OWHC, Rhodes (Greece).
Denis RICARD: General Secretary of the OWHC.
Juan Manuel MARTINEZ: Projects' Coordinator of the OWHC.
Rafael PÉREZ DE LA CONCHA: Regional Coordinator of Cordoba Town Hall.

The following people also attended the meeting:

Ewa NEKANDA TREPKA: Head of the Heritage Protection Department, Warsaw Poland.



Shaaf MILAN-NIA: Local Architect, Luxembourg.
Isabelle LONGUET: France-UNESCO Convention. DAPA.
Marie-Noel TOURNOUX: France-UNESCO Convention. DAPA.
Jan ZWIEJSKI: Professor of Architecture, University of Mendrisio, Lugano Switzerland.
Sophie EBERHART: Mission Responsible, Valle del Loira France.

The cities of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Granada (Spain), Úbeda (Spain) and Évora (Portugal) apologized for not being present at the meeting.

Mr *Eric ELKOUBY*, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, opened the session and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Mayor of this city. He gave the floor to Mr Francisco TEJADA, Deputy Mayor of Cordoba, and venue for the Regional Secretary of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, who welcomed everyone to this 8th Regional Conference and thanked the Strasbourg Council for their hospitality.

Later on, Mr Elkouby gave the floor to Mrs *Lee MINAIDIS*, Interim General Secretary of the OWHC. She congratulated the Regional Secretary for its management and the representatives of the cities present at the meeting. Finally, she wished a lot of success in this Regional Conference.

At that moment, Mr *Roland RIES*, Mayor of Strasbourg came in and also welcomed the participants. He received some gifts from different cities.

After Mr Ries's (that Mayor's) visit, Mr *Tejada* continued with the meeting but before giving the floor to the Regional Coordinator, he congratulated the Mayor of Mostar for joining the Regional Secretary; and the representatives of Bordeaux (France) and Québec (Canada), because they requested to be joined by the Regional Secretary.

Later on, Mr *TEJADA* asked Mr Rafael *PÉREZ DE LA CONCHA*, Regional Coordinator of Cordoba Town Hall, to explain carefully the AGENDA.

Mr *PÉREZ DE LA CONCHA* started speaking about his management report and informed everyone about the new venue for the Regional Secretary:

Venue for the Regional Secretary
C/ Rey Heredia, 22
14003 – CORDOBA (SPAIN)
Tel.: (+34) 957 200 522; Fax: (+34) 957 200 277
E-mail: secretaria@ciudadespatrimonio.eu; Web site: www.ciudadespatrimonio.eu

1. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the 7th Regional Conference held in Kazan (Russian Federation) on 21 June 2007 were handed to the participants. They were approved unanimously. The city of Rhodes noticed a mistake in the list of participants, because the Mayor of Rhodes appeared as a Technician instead of Mayor. It was considered and it will be modified shortly.

The minutes have been translated into Spanish, French and English and 300 copies have been published. They will be sent by mail to the member cities and will be put on the Regional Secretary website.

The Regional Coordinator summarized the agreements adopted in the 7th Regional Conference:

1. Initiating a reflection's process about the criteria used in order to decide which cities and countries can take part in our Regional Secretary.
2. Studying the possibility of improving the Photographic Exhibition, gathering pictures from famous authors, winners of prizes and competitions, etc.

The joining petition of the cities of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Gardhaïa (Algeria) were also taken into account.

2. ECONOMIC REPORT

Budget of the Regional Secretary:

2001 (2.921.354 pesetas)

Cordoba Council contribution: 2.921.354 pesetas.

2002 (37.257 €)

OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2001): 7.207 €

Cordoba Council contribution: 30.050 €

2003 (41.106 €)

OWHC contribution (15% installments 2002): 10.154 €

Cordoba Council contribution: 30.952 €

2004 (52.037 €)

OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2003): 20.237 €

Cordoba Council contribution: 31.800 €

2005 (40.100 €)



OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2004): 10.573 €
Cordoba Council contribution: 29.527 €
2006 (40.650 €)

OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2005): 11.123 €
Cordoba Council contribution: 29.527 €

2007 (41.558 €)

OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2006): 11.558 €
Cordoba Council contribution: 30.000 €

2008 (40.900 €)

OWHC contribution (15% from installments in 2007): 10.900 €
Cordoba Council contribution: 30.000 €

At this point, the participants were informed about the cities that are in order regarding the OWHC membership fees and that are considered Member Cities dated 20 October 2008:

Alcalá de Henares (Spain), Angra do Heroísmo (Portugal), Aranjuez (Spain), Bordeaux (France), Cáceres (Spain), the Vatican City (the Holy See), Cordoba (Spain), Évora (Portugal), Guimarães (Portugal), Le Havre (France), Nancy (France), Oviedo (Spain), Provins (France), Rhodes (Greece), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Segovia (Spain), Sintra (Portugal), Strasbourg (France), Tel-Aviv (Israel), Toledo (Spain).

A discussion arose about the few cities that are in agreement with the payment (only 20 out of 69 cities that take part in this Regional Secretary). However everyone can benefit from the Secretary's activities at very little expense.

After listening to some opinions, it was agreed that only the cities that are in order with the payment on 31 December of the previous year could take advantage of the activities, projects and programmes of this Regional Secretary.

The Regional Coordinator continued speaking about his economic report, taking into account the contribution that the OWHC did to the Regional Secretary last year, equivalent to a 15% from installments that the OWHC obtained in the course of the previous year. This amounted to 17.117.76 Canadian dollars (10.900, 21 €) corresponding to the contribution of 21 cities.

3. INS AND OUTS AS JOINED CITIES

At present, there are 67 World Heritage Cities in the Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Region but only 47 of them are joined to the Secretary. Over the past two years, the UNESCO World Heritage Center has inscribed in its List the following cities: Genoa (Italy) in 2006; Bordeaux (France) and Corfu (Greece) in 2007; Mantua (Italy), Sabionetta (Italy) and San Marino (San Marino) in 2008.



3.1. New member cities

The cities of MOSTAR (Bosnia and Herzegovina), QUÉBEC (Canada) and BORDEAUX (France), which were present at this meeting, requested to join the Regional Secretary.

The representative of San Marino thanked the Regional Secretary for the invitation to this Regional Conference. She said that she will give the report to the Mayor of San Marino and subsequently he will inform about his decision of joining or not the OWHC and the Regional Secretary.

4. PROJECTS DONE BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (since October 2006)

4.1. I Youth Forum of Classical Theatre (Cordoba, April 2007)

FIRST EDITION. CORDOBA. 17-19 APRIL 2007

Participating groups:

- Platone Group, from Palazzolo Acreide (Italy).
- Servicio de Emergencias Teatrales Group, from Mérida (Spain).
- Prosopón Group, from Cordoba (Spain).
- Hypnos Group, from Cordoba (Spain).

A Group from Modica (Italy) was initially confirmed, but it cancelled at the last minute due to illness from some of their participants.

4.2. Photographic Exhibition

It was shown in Kazan, June 2007; in Oviedo, October 2007 and in Évora, November 2007.

4.3. Solidarity Day, 2007-2008

The SOLIDARITY DAY was celebrated with the main theme “Heritage has sense”:

- 2007: Gastronomic Heritage.
- 2008: Musical Heritage.

4.4. Financing Workshop. Évora, 16-17 November 2007

It was celebrated in Évora (Portugal) on 16 and 17 November 2007.

4.5. Actions taken to represent and spread the OWHC

C/ Rey Heredia, 22
14071 – CÓRDOBA
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The Regional Coordinator participated in a Seminar about Heritage organized by the Complutense University of Madrid on 21 April 2008 called “Management of a world heritage city: solutions from the Mediterranean”.

The Regional Coordinator also took part in a training course organized by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP, the acronym in Spanish), held in Madrid on 28 November 2008 called “New strategies to manage the heritage. Mechanisms and instruments to maintain and finance the Cultural Heritage”.

4.6. IV Internet Competition, 2007-2008

A total of 452 participants took part in this 4th Edition but only 370 participated in the draw to obtain a 1,200 euro prize because they sent back the form with the correct answers.

The draw was carried out in the course of a press release on the SOLIDARITY DAY held on September 8. The journalists who were present were in charge of taking out the ball of the prized person. The winner number was 027 corresponding to Beatriz Calle López from Madrid (Spain). She will be transferred a prize of 1,200 euros (no taxes included).

5. ONGOING PROJECTS

5.1. Regional Secretary web site

We bought the domains of the five denominations in five languages:

www.ciudadespatrimonio.eu

www.villespatrimoine.eu

www.heritagecities.eu

www.cidadespatrimonio.eu

www.cittapatrimonio.eu

The new web site is being designed with contents from the old one even if the process is very slow. Interesting news as well as useful links can be found on it. The Regional Coordinator offers this web site for the cities that send news related to the Heritage.

5.2. Youth Forum of Classical Theatre

The *Regional Coordinator* said that the city of Palazzolo, which initially accepted to organize the 2nd edition of this Forum, did not answer to the notifications sent by the Regional Secretary. Therefore, that 2nd edition did not take place.

Mr *TEJADA* confirmed his support to continue with this project and he offered the city of Cordoba the opportunity to reorganize the 2nd edition in 2009. The city of Rhodes offered itself to organize the 3rd edition by 2010.



5.3. Catalogue Guide vs. Informative Leaflet of the OWHC

It was proposed to change the Catalogue Guide format, expensive and heavy to send by mail; for a Guide-leaflet, cheaper, more practical to publish and easy to carry to exhibitions, events or even to send them by mail. The Regional Coordinator showed an outline of this new leaflet.

The new format was unanimously approved. According to the previous agreements, the leaflet will only include the joined cities and in order with the payment on 31 December 2008.

It was not still clear if including only the member cities (in agreement with the payment) or the joined cities (in order or not). However, a leaflet will be published every year with the cities that are in agreement with the payment.

The representative of Aranjuez requested to send the outline of the leaflet to every city before printing them so that they can check their information.

5.4. V Internet Competition “Surfing Through the World Heritage Cities of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean”

It was necessary to choose a theme for developing the competition. The Regional Secretary proposed to carry out a Memory game, very known around the world, based on using pairs of world heritage pictures, which the contestant should discover and pair up. Some examples of this game can be found in different web pages.

In this sense, the participants can get to know the cities as well as the Secretary.

This proposal was approved for the 5th Edition of the Competition. Only pictures of the joined cities and in order on 31 December 2008 can be included.

Mr TEJADA’s idea about printing out this game on paper was also approved.

5.5. Project “Youth on the Trail of World Heritage”

The people present at this meeting were informed about the cities of the Regional Secretary that participated in this OWHC project in the previous editions:

Cities participating in the 2006-2007 programme:

- Cordoba (Spain) – Vigan (Philippines)
- Segovia (Spain)– Cracow (Poland)
- Santiago de Compostela (Spain) - Dakar
- Aranjuez (Spain) – Puebla (Mexico)
- Porto (Portugal) – Ghardaïa (Algeria)
- Sintra (Portugal) – Kutná Hora (Czech Republic)



- Rodhes (Greece) – Yerevan (Armenia)
- Strasbourg (France) – Québec (Canada)

Cities participating in the 2008-2009 programme:

- Strasbourg (France) - Cordoba (Spain)
- Cordoba (Spain) - Budapest (Hungary)
- Segovia (Spain) - Vienna (Austria)
- Baeza (Spain) - Québec (Canada)
- Evora (Portugal) - Québec (Canada)
- Evora (Portugal) - Warsow (Poland)
- Guimaraes (Portugal) - Rhodes (Greece)

5.6. Solidarity Day

After the two last editions under the slogan “Heritage has sense”, especially dedicated to both Gastronomic Heritage in 2007 (sense of taste) and Musical Heritage in 2008 (sense of hearing), we still had to decide the theme for the next two years.

The Regional Coordinator explained that the senses missing were: sight, smell and touch. Therefore, we could put them together and dedicate the theme to the people who cannot use them, that is to say, impaired visually people or either with hearing or mobility problems.

A lot of activities could be organized related to that theme: accessible ways, Braille writing, mock-ups of monuments so that the people can touch them, copies of statues, engravings, inscriptions, etc. Some visits could be also organized especially for some authorities or members of the public without these problems and that can experience them (for example, covering up their eyes or using a wheelchair). This is a way to highlight how big the problem is and to support them. This will be also useful so that both Institutions and Organisms responsible for the Heritage can make an effort to develop interpreting systems of the Heritage and make it more accessible.

This proposal was approved. The Regional Coordinator is requested to make a draft to develop activities for this Day.

5.7. Technical Commissions

5.7.1. Report of the Urbanism and Restoration Commission (Lyon)

Mr *Bruno DELAS*, from the city of Lyon, presented the Strategic Development Plan.

- It is made up of 5 initiatives:
 - sharing experiences;



- capitalizing these experiences;
- consolidating the Plan;
- building the twinnings; and
- contributing to the world exchange.

He said that experts were requested to give specific examples to be able to show them. Some of the results from issues such as tourism, parking places, restoration etc. could be shown in a pedagogical way to transfer them to the OWHC.

He informed everyone that an Organizing Group was created to request input from different cities and that they are receiving their reports (Quito, Ubeda, Evora, Ratisbona, Reitersburg, Naples, Lyon, Quebec, Segovia, Vienna, San Miguel de Allende, Ibiza, Katmandu, Riga, Tel Aviv...). He also requested that more input is given since the more possibilities we offer, the more solutions we will find to them.

All the results will be shown at the World Congress of Quito. They will be also shown in the OWHC web site as well as in a publication.

5.7.2. Report of the Tourism Commission (Rhodes)

Mrs Lee MINAIDIS informed everyone about the Tourism Workshop held in Cordoba in October 2006 in which The World Tourism Organization took part. Some studies of different cities such as Sintra, Lyon, Cuenca and Cordoba were presented. It was necessary to elaborate a Management Plan of Sustainable Tourism in order to correct some problems such as the load capacity, congestion, seasonality, obtaining of indicators, professional training etc.

She stated that people were going to reduce their spending because of the financial crisis. Even the travelers were going to cut off their travels although some experts say that only 12% decided not to travel in 2009.

She also made a proposal to Quito: to organize a round table about measures taken in the past and to be taken in the future in order to fight the crisis impact on tourism and to get some benefits from these experiences.

5.7.3. Report of the Financing Commission (Évora)

5.7.4. Report of the Education and Culture Commission (Naples)

Due to the fact that the cities of Evora and Naples, representatives of the Financing Commission and Education and Culture Commission respectively, were missing; the Regional Coordinator was asked to contact them so that they can organize some activities in the future.

5.8. Photographic Exhibition

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The Regional Coordinator informed the people present that this exhibition was made up with pictures coming from the 29 cities which sent them to the Regional Secretary. So only the cities that sent pictures were present at this exhibition.

The exhibition is available to the cities that request for it. Every city will have to take care of the expenses of transportation as well as a small insurance.

Please bear in mind that only the cities in order with the payment can show their pictures in this exhibition.

5.9. ALLIANCE OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CITIES, Aranjuez (Spain)

The Regional Coordinator summarized briefly the backgrounds of this project and the proposal that the city of Aranjuez made in October 2006 to obtain the collaboration of the Regional Secretary of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean on the occasion of the creation of the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CITIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE. The collaboration was established in the course of the 6th Regional Conference held in October 2006 in Cordoba.

In January 2007 was subsequently submitted to the Board of Directors in Cuenca (Ecuador) to be studied carefully.

On 16 March 2007, the Regional Coordinator was invited to the meeting that the Alliance held in Ibiza, where he made some suggestions and gave some advice. He also participated in a conference about a World Cities Network at the First International Conference of the ALLIANCE OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CITIES held in Aranjuez on 12-14 December 2007 with the presence of Mr *Marcelo CABRERA*, Mayor of Cuenca (Ecuador).

The Mayor of Aranjuez requested the Head of the OWHC to consider this petition at the next OWHC Board of Directors to be held in January 2008 in Bergen (Norway).

After this presentation, Mr *Luciano SÁNCHEZ MONEO*, General Secretary of the “Aranjuez Cultural Landscape Foundation”, informed that the situation had changed: cultural landscapes are not cities so the articles of association of the OWHC admit that these places are located in an urban area. He complained because he was not informed after the Board of Directors’ meeting held in Bergen in January 2008, as it was promised.

He said that the Alliance was also supported by the World Heritage Centre. Mrs *Metchild Rossler* backed the initiative and, in fact, they are collaborating in the drawing-up of a Strategic Plan. In order to fit this Alliance, the OWHC would be forced to make some changes in their rules since there is no Thematic Secretary. It could be considered the idea of becoming the OWHC a Net of Networks because it already has a



net of Regional Secretaries. ¿Why cannot we have a Network of Cultural Landscapes too?

Due to the fact that only the cities that comply with the articles of association can join the Organization; the idea was based on joining the Organization as members of a Network.

He is the person responsible for the General Secretary, the Mayor of Sintra is the head of the Alliance and the Mayor of Aranjuez is in charge of the Vice-Presidency.

He finally stated that the Alliance was solving the problems that some cities were having with their declaration such as the cities of Elche and Médulas. The World Heritage Centre is considering to rebuild these inscriptions and become these cities in Cultural Landscapes. It was precisely in Strasbourg where the European Landscape Agreement was approved.

Mrs *Lee MINAIDIS*, Interim General Secretary of the OWHC, took the floor to say that the OWHC received a proposal to elaborate a Thematic Secretary. Mr *Marcelo CABRERA*, Head of the OWHC, said that it was not still clear at the Board of Directors held in Bergen (Norway) in January 2008 what articles of association were going to follow the Alliance.

Mrs *MINAIDIS* said that the OWHC was still waiting to receive specific information and a right petition to study if these articles of association of the Alliance can be included in the OWHC as a Thematic Secretary. She effectively confirmed that the World Heritage Centre wanted to promote the Cultural Landscapes but also the Historical Urban Landscapes.

Mr *Denis RICARD* reiterated that the Board of Directors was never against that possibility.

6. FUTURE PROJECTS

6.1. Meeting with the Regional Secretariat for Northern Africa and Middle East

This project was approved at the 6th Regional Conference held in Cordoba in October 2006 but it has not been carried out yet. The Regional Secretary sent a notification to the Coordinator of that Secretariat dated 15 March 2007 but there was no answer from her.

Therefore, it was advisable to get closer to this Regional Secretariat for Northern African and Middle East in order to reactivate the project. It was suggested that the 10th World Congress of Quito held in September 2009 might be a good occasion to contact the Secretariat and close a programme of work.



6.2. Project of Archaeology in the Heritage Cities

The Regional Coordinator presented a joint proposal between the OWHC Regional Secretary and the Complutense University of Madrid, specifically with the Faculty of Geography and History.

The title of the project was “Approaching to the Archaeological Heritage in the World Heritage Cities of the OWHC”. The aim was based on updating the main problems and characteristics of the management of this Archaeological Heritage and trying to find solutions to them.

Mr *Bruno DELAS* intervened to say that the Organizing Commission of the OWHC was a great place to develop those initiatives and it was not necessary to duplicate the efforts.

Apart from this opinion, the proposal of research was approved and the results of it could be sent to that Commission.

6.3. Project “Youth for the Heritage” (“Little Heritage”)

Because of the success in the cities of Cordoba and Avila thanks to the creation of this group of Youth for the Heritage, it was proposed to spread the experience to the rest of cities of the Secretary by creating a similar project.

This project is made up with youth students from different schools that either took part or have participated in the OWHC project called “Youth on the trail of the World Heritage Cities”. They also collaborated in the activities organized by the Town Halls to raise awareness about the Heritage.

The project was approved and put into motion.

6.4. Setting up of HERITY, quality system of the Heritage (<http://www.herity.it>)

The Regional Coordinator informed about a new project in the Heritage field that he considered very important to introduce in our respective cities: the Programme HERITY. It is based on introducing in the cities a quality system regarding the Heritage (HERITY= HERITAGE + QUALITY).

Mr *Bruno DELAS* said that the responsibility of the cities is the territory and not only the isolated monuments. It would be convenient to carry out a Management Plan of the territories as well as a quality evaluation. It would be needed as well an approach to the Association of European Cultural Cities (AVEC).

He finally stated that using a Network can guarantee the quality.



This initiative was considered but any action was taken.

6.5. Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Board in Seville, 2009

The *Regional Coordinator* informed that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee gathered in Québec (Canada) in July 2008 chose Spain as the country that will be in charge of the Presidency of the Committee between July 2008 and June 2009. As a result of this, the World Heritage Committee will hold the next meeting in Seville from 22 until 30 June 2009.

The World Heritage Committee is made up with 21 out of 185 countries that have been confirmed at the World Heritage Convention. This Committee is considered one of the most important in the political field of the UNESCO due to the large number of countries participating in it, its visibility as well as the success obtained regarding the Heritage since it was approved in 1972.

It was advised to take advantage of that important meeting so that the Regional Secretary can set up a stand at the meeting point. This initiative was approved.

6.6. Meeting of Technicians and Managers of the World Heritage for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean

Over the past few years, some meetings of World Heritage Managers have been organized successfully by the cities of Aranjuez and Ávila with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the UNESCO, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) as well as other organizations.

Thanks to these interesting initiatives, it was suggested to organize an annual Meeting of Heritage Technicians and Managers of the World Heritage Cities for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

This meeting should be held every year in a different country. Help from the World Heritage Center, ICOMOS as well as other similar organisms should be also requested.

Mr *Luciano SÁNCHEZ* confirmed that the experience of organizing these kinds of meetings was very enriching. He also suggested that this meeting should be organized by considering two lines of work: one for technicians and another one for managers. He requested that the meeting be organized for a non-Spanish city in order not to clash with the meetings that Aranjuez used to organize. He stated that it was important to motivate the cities to expose new and interesting subjects. He finally said that these workshops demand political involvement to make them effective and valid.

It was agreed to delegate in Mr *Luciano SÁNCHEZ* the organization of these meetings in collaboration with the Regional Coordinator.



The Regional Coordinator ended the statement about his Management report and Mr Tejada thanked his work and big effort, considering that it was backed by (for) all the participants in this Meeting.

7. Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)

Mrs *Lee MINAIDIS*, Interim General Secretary of the OWHC, and Mr *Juan Manuel MARTÍNEZ*, Programme Coordinator of the OWHC, had the floor to speak about some of the projects.

They spoke about the Boards of Directors that took place in January, in Bergen (Norway) and in July, in Québec (Canada) and they summarized the most important agreements adopted. Some of them are listed below:

- The project of the Hostels was rejected.
- Some changes in the articles of association were studied after the General Assembly in Kazan.
- It was organized the Prize Jean Paul L'Allier for the Heritage in commemoration of the OWHC founder and previous Mayor of Quebec.
- The theme of the Alliance of Cultural Landscape was taken into consideration.

An interesting proposal from the city of Quebec was very welcomed in order to organize a workshop of journalists on the occasion of the 10th World Congress of Quito.

Next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place in March in Kandy (Sri Lanka).

Everybody was informed about the Regional Coordinators' meeting that took place in Quebec in July 2008, in which the regional coordinators of Kazan-Russian Federation (Regional Secretary for Europe and Asia); Budapest-Hungary (Regional Secretary for Centre and Eastern Europe); Bergen-Norway (Regional Secretary for Northern Europe) and Olinda-Brazil (Regional Secretary for Latin America) were present.

They finally introduced the programme and gave some information about both the General Assembly and the OWHC World Congress that will be held in Quito (Ecuador) from 8 until 11 September 2009.

All the cities of the Regional Secretary are encouraged to take part in it.

The representatives of Warsaw (Poland) and Sintra (Portugal) showed their intention of presenting the candidacies to host the next OWHC World Congress to be held by 2011.

Mr *Francisco TEJADA*, Deputy Mayor of Cordoba, venue for the Regional Secretary for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean and Mrs *Lee MINAIDIS*, Interim General



Secretary of the OWHC, finished this 8th Regional Conference and read the conclusions. After the reading, all the agreements were unanimously approved.

**AGREEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE
REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN OF THE OWHC
Strasbourg, 3 - 4 December 2009**

1. **MINUTES OF THE 7TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE.-** The Minutes of the 7th Regional Conference held in Kazan (Russian Federation) was approved unanimously on 21 June 2001. The city of Rhodes warns of a mistake in the list of participants, because the Mayor of Rhodes appears as Technician instead of Mayor. It is taken into consideration and it will be modified.
2. **NEW MEMBER CITIES .-** The joinings of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Bordeaux (France) and Québec (Canada) the Regional Secretary for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean are accepted. It is an honor to have a representative of San Marino city, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List recently. The Regional Secretary invites the Mayor of San Marino to join both the OWHC and this Secretary.
3. **MEMBER CITIES IN ORDER.-** Just a few cities (20) are up to date with the annual payments to the OWHC on 20 October 2008. In this way, it is agreed that only those member cities, which already paid the annual contribution last 31 December, will be able to take part and take advantage of the activities, projects and programmes set in motion from the Regional Secretary.
4. **YOUTH FORUM OF CLASSICAL THEATRE.-** Because of the lack of answer from Palazzolo Acreide to organize the 2nd Youth Forum of Classical Theatre, which was supposed to be held in 2008, the city of Cordoba will organize it by 2009 and the city of Rhodes by 2010.
5. **LEAFLET-GUIDE.-** The proposal of the Regional Coordinator based on making a leaflet-guide, that you can open out, instead of the traditional Catalogue-Guide was approved. It is agreed to reissue this leaflet annually, updating it just with the member cities in order.
6. **V INTERNET COMPETITION.-** It is agreed to announce the 5th edition of the Internet Competition “Surfing Through the World Heritage Cities of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean”, which will be based on the



traditional Memory game, using pairs of pictures of every member city in order, coming from the photographic exhibition that exists already.

7. **PUBLICATION OF MEMORY GAME.**- It is agreed to print out a Memory game on paper. The Secretary will send copies to every member city in order and there is also the possibility to have this game on electronic format so that the cities can print out the copies they want.
8. **SOLIDARITY DAY.**- After dedicating the previous years to the senses of both taste and hearing respectively, it is agreed to dedicate the year 2009 to the remaining ones: sight, smell and sense of touch, taking into consideration the problems of accessibility to the Heritage and raising awareness about the difficulties of both visually impaired and reduced mobility people in order to enjoy the Heritage. The Regional Secretary will elaborate a guide to facilitate the development of activities related to this theme.
9. **TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS:** The Coordinators of both the Urbanism Commission (Lyon) and Tourism (Rhodes) site the 10th World Congress of Quito, from September 8 to 11, 2009 to hold the technical commissions. There are not any representatives of the Financing Commission (Évora) or the Education and Culture one (Naples). The Regional Secretary will contact both of them to set a workshop of each one of these Commissions in the course of 2009.
10. **MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR NORTHERN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST:** It is approved to pick up a rapprochement as well as a Meeting with the Regional Secretariat for Northern Africa and Middle East. It is recommended to the Regional Coordinator to contact the Coordinator of this Regional Secretariat as soon as possible in order to establish a first meeting in Quito in the course of the 10th World Congress to be held from September 8 to 11 2009.
11. **RESEARCH PROJECT ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE:** It is agreed to put in motion the Research Project “Approximation to the Archaeological Heritage in the World Heritage Cities for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean of the OWHC” presented by the Complutense University of Madrid.
12. **YOUTH FOR THE HERITAGE:** It is approved the proposal to spread and introduce in the member cities in order the Project of “Youth for the Heritage” (*Patrimonitos* “Little Heritage”) taking into account the positive experience lived in both cities Ávila and Córdoba. The Regional Secretary will send a report about the Project and it is thinking to celebrate a meeting in Naples, if it is possible, in the Education and Culture Workshop.



13. **MEETING OF THE UNESCO IN SEVILLE**: It is agreed that the Regional Secretary of the OWHC can be present at the Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Board, which will be held in Seville, in June 2009 as well as the setting of an informative and promotional stand.
14. **MEETING OF TECHNICIANS AND HERITAGE MANAGERS**: It is approved the celebration of the Meeting of World Heritage Technicians and Managers for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. The date and place have not been set yet. The representative of Aranjuez, with a wide experience organizing this kind of national level meetings, has been entrusted in order to coordinate this meeting with the Regional Coordinator.
15. **ISSUES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION**:
 - 15.1. **ALLIANCE OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CITIES**: It is taking into consideration the constitution of the Alliance of Cultural Landscape Cities, after an intervention of the General Secretary and the representative of Aranjuez. It was asked to the General Secretary to send a specific proposal to the Board of Directors of the OWHC about the role of the Alliance in the OWHC, which will be reviewed in the next meeting in Kandy (Sri Lanka) in autumn 2009.
 - 15.2. **10TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE OWHC**: It also takes into consideration, after the intervention of both the Interim General Secretary and the Programmes Coordinator of the OWHC, the scientific program, information about accommodation, registration, simultaneous activities and trips before and after the 10th World Congress of the OWHC to be held in Quito (Ecuador) from September 8 to 11, 2009.
 - 15.3. **CANDIDACIES TO HOST THE 11TH WORLD CONGRESS 2011**. There is a will from the cities of Warsaw (Poland) and Sintra (Portugal) to submit their candidacies in order to host the 11th World Congress of the OWHC to be held by 2011.
 - 15.4. **JEAN PAUL L'ALLIER FOR THE HERITAGE PRIZE**. It is taking into consideration, after the intervention of both the Interim General Secretary and the Programmes Coordinator of the OWHC, the Jean Paul L'Allier for the Heritage Prize as well as its Rules.



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- 15.5. **HERITY.** It finally takes into consideration the HERITY program in favor of the quality in the Heritage Management as well as its aims and characteristics.

Y sin más asuntos que tratar, se levanta la sesión a las 13'45 horas del día 4 de diciembre de 2008, dando por clausurada esta 8ª Conferencia Regional de Europa del Sur y del Mediterráneo.

Rafael Pérez de la Concha Camacho
COORDINADOR REGIONAL CIUDADES PATRIMONIO
MUNDIAL DE EUROPA DEL SUR Y DEL MEDITERRÁNEO. OCPM