

**Meeting with S.E. Mgr Lebeaupin,
Apostolic Nuncio to the EU
Brussels, 23 January 2019**

Background note

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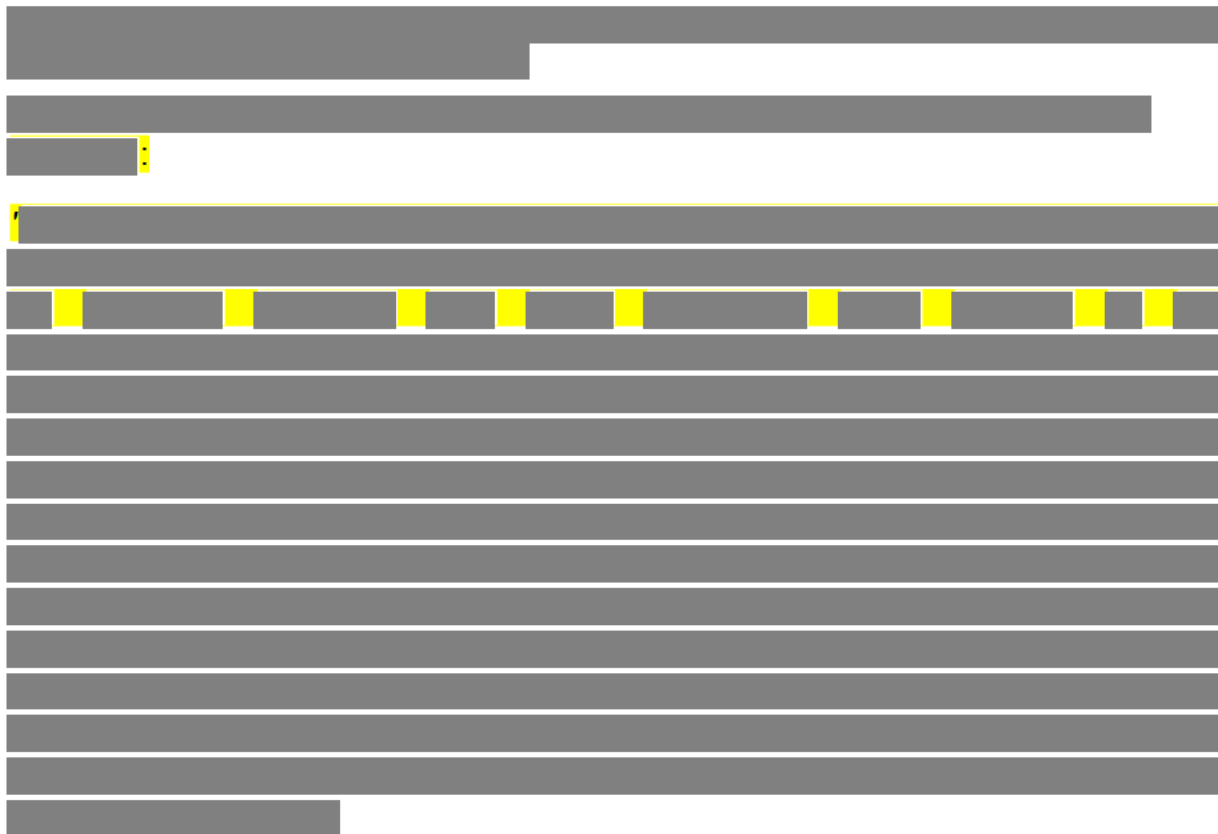
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The EYCH 2018 and the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage

At national level, the European Year of Cultural Heritage was implemented by a network of National Coordinators appointed by Member States for this purpose. 37 European countries participated in the Year. Further to your request, EAC services asked Ambassador Tombinski, the EU representative to the Holy See, to inquire about Holy See's interest in participating in the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and appointing a National Coordinator but have never received an answer. At the same time, the Holy See brought a substantial contribution to the Year, by organising relevant conferences and events and printing a commemorative EYCH 2 euro coin.

As part of the Year, the Pontifical Council for Culture, together with Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University and the Italian bishops' conference, organised a conference entitled "Doesn't God Dwell Here Anymore? Decommissioning Places of Worship and Integrated Management of Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage" on 29-30 November 2018 in Rome.

At the end of the conference, the delegates adopted a document entitled *The Decommissioning and Ecclesial Re-use of Churches*. These **guidelines**, consisting of five chapters and final recommendations, are meant to help dioceses work with their local communities in finding appropriate uses for decommissioned churches.

European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage

To ensure that the European Year has a lasting impact beyond 2018, the Commission adopted a European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage on 5 December 2018: 60 actions, which aim to promote cultural heritage as a resource for the future, involving a wide range of stakeholders and policies, based on evidence.

The actions cover five thematic areas:

1) Cultural heritage for an inclusive Europe: participation and access for all

In 2019, the European Commission will launch the #WeareEuropeForCulture project. It will fund pop-up exhibitions in public spaces, highlighting personal stories and items that have a connection with cultural heritage. It aims to reach people who normally have less contact with cultural heritage.

2) Cultural heritage for a sustainable Europe: smart solutions for a cohesive and sustainable future

The European Capital of Smart Tourism is a new EU initiative rewarding innovative and smart tourism in European cities. In 2019, Helsinki and Lyon will hold the title. The prize is designed to provide a platform for European cities to cooperate and share success stories.

3) Cultural heritage for a resilient Europe: safeguarding endangered heritage

From 2019, the Commission's Joint Research Centre will develop a novel approach to support the retrofitting of existing historical buildings in its iRESIST+ project. The aim is to help increase their capacity to resist earthquakes and make them more energy efficient.

4) Cultural heritage for an innovative Europe: mobilising knowledge and research

The EU will continue to support the development of specialised skills and competences and improve knowledge management and knowledge transfer in the cultural heritage sector, including through the Erasmus+ programme. The aim is to map skills at risk of being lost, gather statistical evidence, define occupational profiles and develop frameworks for raising awareness and attracting young people to heritage professions.

5) Cultural heritage for stronger global partnerships: reinforcing international cooperation

The EU is setting up an international network for cultural heritage innovation and diplomacy under Horizon 2020. EU expertise will assist third countries in protecting cultural heritage through trainings, and fostering the creation of innovative, tailored made solutions for different areas (EU Neighbourhood countries, Latin America, Africa, Asia).

Religious heritage in the context of the EYCH

Religious heritage represents by far the largest single category of European cultural patrimony. During the EYCH, several initiatives highlighted the social and economic value of religious heritage.

1) European Initiative 'Heritage in transition: re-imagining industrial, religious and military spaces for the regeneration of urban and rural areas'

The Year promoted the transformation of Europe's industrial, religious and military heritage for new uses. Through smart restoration and adaptive reuse, unused buildings and sites can be given new leases of life to bring economic and social dynamism to cities and regions. The following activities were implemented:

Exchange and dissemination of good practice on adaptive reuse through workshops and conferences organised in Berlin (by DG EAC during the European Heritage Summit), Paris (by Future for Religious Heritage) and Leeuwarden (by the Architects' Council of Europe). The latter led to the adoption of the **Leeuwarden Declaration** "Preserving and enhancing the values of our built heritage for future generations", which highlights the benefits of re-using built heritage and lists a number of basic principles to ensure quality in adaptive re-use operations/processes.

The text is supported by the following **networks**: Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Europa Nostra, Future for Religious Heritage (FRH), the European Federation of Fortified Sites (EFFORTS) and the European Initiative for Industrial Heritage (ERIH). All of them (except EFFORTS) are supported by Creative Europe.

As a follow-up in 2019-2020, the Creative Europe programme will fund **peer-learning activities** on cultural heritage good practice among stakeholders, in particular local/regional administrations. They will focus on the implementation of quality principles for cultural heritage interventions, including the adaptive reuse of built heritage.

- Awareness-raising activities to engage a wider audience with religious heritage, such as the Ringing the bells initiative (organised in 14 countries to remember the end of World War I on the International Day of Peace - 21 September 2018) and the Torch initiative (see below).

2) Future for Religious Heritage (FRH)

FRH has been an active member of the EYCH Stakeholder's Committee. Co-funded by Creative Europe, the network brings together around 150 organisations and individuals to promote and protect religious heritage across Europe. Its members include NGOs, charities, government, religious and university departments. FRH is a not-for-profit, non-religious organisation open to all.

FRH called for a European-wide mapping study on how best to adapt Europe's remarkable religious heritage to the needs of the 21st century. The European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage does not foresee such a study. Creative Europe, Horizon 2020 and the European Regional Development Fund offer opportunities to support religious heritage.

Funding opportunities

Funding for cultural heritage is available under Creative Europe and other EU programmes.

Creative Europe

Funding is available for two types of projects (maximum duration of 48 months):

- Small scale cooperation projects (project leader and at least two other partners); grant maximum EUR 200,000 up to 60% of the eligible budget of the project
- Large scale cooperation projects (project leader and at least five other partners); grant maximum EUR 2,000,000 up to 50% of the eligible budget of the project

Project proposals shall include a substantiated strategy and detailed description of how they plan to implement one or more of the following programme priorities:

- Promote transnational mobility;
- Strengthen audience development;
- Foster capacity building, new business models, digitisation, and developing new skills for cultural professionals;
- Enhance intercultural dialogue and promote shared EU values and mutual understanding and respect.

The next call for cooperation projects will be published after summer 2019.

In 2019-2020, the programme will fund **peer-learning activities** on cultural heritage good practice among local authorities and communities. As a follow-up to the European Year of Cultural Heritage, they will focus on the implementation of quality principles for cultural heritage interventions, including the adaptive reuse of (religious) built heritage.

Names of all contributors:

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