

## **ISCARSAH minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held in Bath on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008

Present: Pere Roca (Chairman), David Yeomans (Secretary), Luc Schuermans, Donald Friedman, Vitor Coias, Mosseri Avi, Dina D' Ayala, Niki Militadou, Görün Arun, Wolfram Jaeger, Heinrich Schroeter, Bernd Mittnacht (observer), Pierre Smars, Roberto Meli, Will Teron (observer), Patrick Sparks, Steve Kelley, Paulo Lorenzo, Claudio Modena, Luigia Binda.

Apologies were received from: Peter Elliott, Ramiro Sofronie, Wilfred Ferwerda, Lyne Fontaine, Toshikazu Hanazato

The minutes of the last meeting in Chicago were approved.

### Membership

There was a brief discussion of the rules about the elimination of non- active members. Gorun Arun pointed out that we have no official statement of the rules for that. It is clearly necessary for a note to be circulated by the secretary.

Heinrich pointed out that Wolf Schmidt has resigned from ICOMOS and therefore should be removed from the list of ISCARSAH members.

It was also noted that the membership list at present is not up to date and the secretary needs to add those members who were elected in Chicago.

Applications for new members were considered. Androniki Miltiadou commented on the application from Kosmas Stylianidis and he was accepted as an expert member of the committee.

Heinrich introduced Bernd Mittnacht who was attending as an observer because he was considering applying for membership of the committee. His application will be considered in Quebec.

Two Canadian experts (Will Teron, present, and Gerry Zegerius) have also applied for membership but it was felt that there was insufficient information about them. It was agreed to defer consideration of these two names until Quebec when they would be able to be present. They both will be asked for more detailed CV's.

### Chairman's report and discussion

Pere Roca reported on the meeting in Chicago held in association with that of the 20th Century Committee.

On working groups, he noted variable progress made. The most active over the last year has been the safety group (see below) and their work in collaboration with the ISO committee. Those participating have included Yoshi and Claudio who have therefore had little time to develop an earthquake group, which was their intention. Claudio assumed that this might be subsumed into the earthquake group.

In Cyprus the intention for Yoshi and Christos Tsatsanifos to form a geotechnical group but we have not heard from them

There has been no progress of Yaacov's proposed construction group. It was felt by those present that this would be valuable. Steve Kelley is to establish a 20<sup>th</sup> century group.

The secretary was asked to write to group leaders for a list of members of the groups and for a note of work to date.

There has been continuing development of the ISO Annex since it was discussed at the meeting in Antalya.

Pere Roca has been disseminating the Recommendations in association with the development of the Spanish building code and consideration of how this should be applied to historic buildings.

Claudio Modena noted a CEN (European Committee for Standardization) Technical committee (TC46) concerned with conservation. This comprises mainly physicists and chemists but he is appointed as a delegate to form a committee on structures. There are a number of working groups. WG1 is on terminology. He would like to have some of our members appointed to WG2, which is on materials. Initially diagnosis concentrated on surfaces but he pointed out the need to deal with the underlying structures and a group should be formed from members of this committee.

#### Election process

Pere Roca explained the conflict that has arisen between the original intention that all Expert Members should be allowed to vote and the later ruling that only one member from each country should vote. There are some difficulties with the latter. As Claudio points out the Italian members of the committee pay their dues direct to Paris and so are not members of ICOMOS Italy. It was agreed that we should assume that all Expert Members should be allowed to vote, accepting the small risk that we might have to repeat the process.

At present we have two candidates declared for election as chairman, Stephen Kelley and Claudio Modena.

#### ISO Annex

It was explained to the committee that:

- a) We cannot expect those using the ISO to read our Recommendations. This is so because
- b) This is a code for those drawing up national codes.
- c) The core document is fixed and although we may have reservations about its contents it is not in our remit to suggest alterations to it.

This led to a discussion about the term Rehabilitation that is defined in the core document quite differently from its use by conservators.

There was some discussion about the confusion between cultural and heritage values. The Safety Committee needs to look at this.

The chairman opined that the section on limit state had not been discussed sufficiently and that members should send him comments that could be incorporated into the text. The problem here is what to use for the design life of an historic structure. Should we take the future design life to be the present age of the structure? There might be some logic in this but there is a need to limit the time frame to avoid over-cautious design. There is also a conflict between the requirements of means to take account of progressive deterioration and of exceptional events (principally earthquake risk). We are actually considering the design life of interventions. It was suggested that design

life should be related to the interval between inspections and possible future interventions.

A small number of detailed alterations were suggested that the secretary should convey to the Safety Group.

#### Conservation registration

Vitor Coitas presented a proposed system of registration for those working on conservation projects that is being discussed in Portugal. It was noted that there is a registration process for engineers in the UK. Heinrich pointed out that the EU services directive is moving towards a completely free market and away from restrictive qualifications.

#### Web site

Steve Kelley announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> Century meeting in Chicago last year generate sufficient surplus funds to pay for the setting up of a web site for the committee. He will follow up on that but would like comments from the committee on what they might want from such a site. Suggestions should be sent directly to him.

#### Other notices

Steve Kelley reported on the conference in Macao on climate change. This is an important topic but has not generated much interest among members of our profession. He commented on the significance of Lyne Fontaine's paper that documented a particular case where climate change is affecting an historic structure. Another conference in two years time is being proposed but it is not clear whether it will attract more interest than the one in Macao.

A note of a bridge structure in the USA suffering from alkali-aggregate reaction (otherwise called alkali-silica reaction) was circulated for members' attention and interest.