

Brief an die EAA zur möglichen Gründung eines europäischen Interessensverbundes

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SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Dear President,

We write as Presidents/Chairs of our respective Associations, which represent professional archaeologists in our countries.

As you well know, the work of archaeologists has transformed greatly in recent years, making giant strides towards more advanced professionalisation and increasingly approaching more structured professions. Many Associations of Archaeologists operating in Europe have achieved important goals in their countries for the reputation of the professional figure, the regulation and the adaptation of national legislation to the Valletta Convention. We are certain that these results have been achieved thanks to the commitment of the various national associations but also thanks to the contribution of EAA in the directions of internationalisation and "Europeanization" of the figure of the professional archaeologist. This evolution, however, followed different phases and times throughout Europe, depending on the specific characteristics of individual states and the legislation applied in them.

In this regard, we would like to highlight our session 'Professional Archaeology in Europe: The State of the Issue' at the upcoming 30th Annual Meeting of the EAA next August in Rome. The session will constitute a moment of in-depth analysis on the state of professional archaeology in Europe by presenting data showing the work and professional life of European archaeologists, how archaeology and its workers are perceived in society, what specific difficulties this field of work entails compared to other professions of high scientific level.

It is worth emphasising that in the White Paper on European Governance published in 2002, the European Commission established the general principles and minimum standards for stakeholder consultation by the Commission, aimed at strengthening the culture of consultation and social dialogue. The Commission encourages greater stakeholder involvement through a more transparent consultation process, which will strengthen the Commission's accountability. The 2006 Directive asks Member States, in collaboration with the Commission, to encourage the development of codes of professional conduct at community level and to ensure that these codes are accessible online.

The Commission stressed the importance of codes of conduct at European level and may also help to bring out the specific nature of the activities of certain sectors by guaranteeing that they

can exercise their profession independently and by protecting the impartiality of the rules of professional conduct.

We strongly believe that today the archaeological profession must overcome the condition of its unique dimension, with its own rules. Our profession interacts, like others, with social life and must pursue the social utility of European citizens and participate in the large community of other European intellectual professions. Also, thanks to the contribution provided by EAA in recent years, it is time to build also in our discipline a European professional conscience to promote mutual learning and the exchange of good practices. To achieve this objective, we believe it is necessary to establish a new second-level representative body on a European scale that federates the national associations of professional archaeologists, promoting collaboration and the closest synergy with the international associations already existing and operating at a European level. We are aware that the way archaeologists work varies from country to country, also depending on the specific legislation. But we also realise the importance of conceiving our profession from a European perspective, starting from the common and shared ethical norms, which are the basis of the European Union's policies on social dialogue. The activities of liberal professionals comprise intellectual tasks for the proper discharge of which a high level of legal, technical and scientific knowledge is required. The necessary knowledge is acquired by the successful completion of studies leading to a degree or diploma of higher education and/or the award of a recognized professional title. In some countries there may be additional requirements leading to registration with a regulatory body before practice is permitted. In other countries the exercise of the profession is completely free, even in the absence of specific qualifications. Beyond regulatory differences, what can create a common platform for professional practice is deontology based on common and shared ethical standards.

For this reason, with the convinced support of the European Council of Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), it is our intention in the coming months to promote the establishment of a new second-level representative body, a European body of national associations of professional archaeologists that encourages the circulation and exchange of good practices at a legislative, regulatory, and ethical level.

For that matter, it is important to underline our intention to federate not individual professional archaeologists but associations of archaeologists. In this sense, according to the discipline of representation, it is to be understood as a second level representative body. The aim is focused on the Professional Community of European Archaeologists before and beyond archaeology strictly understood as a discipline. This new body can become an accredited interlocutor with the institutions of the "European Union", on par and alongside dozens of other intellectual professional communities, also through membership of CEPLIS - European Council of Free Professions. CEPLIS is an organisation founded in 1970 bringing together national inter professional associations (such as for example UNAPL in France, Confprofessioni in Italy, the UP in Spain, etc) and European mono professional ones (such as for example EFPA for Psychologists, ENC for Nurses, ECEC and FEANI for Engineers, etc). The objectives of CEPLIS are the coordination and defence of the moral, cultural, scientific, and material interests of the Liberal Professions, the

implementation of any kind of information or action which may help to achieve its objectives, the creation and participation in all necessary organisations or services, and in general the implementation of all measures required to contribute to accomplishing the objective of the association. Since its establishment in the 1970' CEPLIS is the unique organisation that represents the interests of the Liberal Professionals at the European level. EU related issues of interest to a group of liberal professions are discussed in the framework of CEPLIS' working groups. Currently, there are seven Working Groups operating, one for the Health Professions, one on Common Values and Professional Codes, one regarding the Continuous Professional Development, another on the Directives, another one for the Interprofessional, other for Monoprofessions, and finally, the Permanent Committee Special working groups are also created to debate and determine CEPLIS' action on proposed EU legislation, such as the Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, the Directive on Services in the Internal Market, or the Commission's Communication on Competition and Regulations in our sector.

To achieve this objective, we would like to be able to count on the collaboration and support of EAA, possibly also through the signing of a memorandum of understanding, hoping that the project will find your interest and willingness to collaborate.

In the next few weeks, we will work on the drafting of a Statute of the European Confederation of Professional Archaeologists (ECA).

We are therefore asking you for preliminary feedback regarding this proposal, and your availability to participate in a remote call, which will be scheduled later.

Confiding in your interest and awaiting your kind response, we send you our Best Regards.

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