



Ministerstvo kultúry Slovenskej republiky  
Nám. SNP č. 33  
813 31 Bratislava  
Slovenská republika

Dear Sir, Madam

E.C.C.O. understands that the National Council of the Slovak Republic is considering changing the rules for access to the profession Reštaurátor. Amendments to Act No. 416/2002 in articles II, III and IV propose to accept and employ, as Conservators – Restorers, dealing with Registered National Cultural Heritage and artworks of fine (visual) art in collections of Museums and Galleries, applicants with lower educational qualifications than is currently stated in law. We are aware of the regulations which exist in the Slovak Republic concerning the protection of Slovak Cultural Heritage. These regulations are very well developed and represent a standard that E.C.C.O. is both upholding and indeed working towards in some of our other european member states.

The position of the professional Conservator-Restorer (in Slovakia traditionally called Reštaurátor) is clearly and explicitly comprehended within the following three Acts:

Act No. 49/2002 on the Protection of monuments and historic sites,

Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 206/2009 of 28 April 2009 on Museums and Galleries and the protection of objects of cultural significance and the amendment of the Act and in particular, Act No. 200/1994 Z.z. on the Chamber of Restorers and the performance of restoration activity by its members, as amended.

The profession of the Conservator-Restorer is a liberal profession and is a discipline in its own right, having its own specific competences informed by a code of ethics. These competences are published and are based on a discrete education and training, where access to and exercise of the profession is set at Master's degree equivalent to European Qualification Framework (EQF) level 7. Further practice, post qualification, is recommended under the supervision of professionals. This practice can be accredited by the professional body and this also occurs in several other countries such as Ireland, Britain and the Netherlands. In the Slovak Republic the body responsible for the issuing of the licences and ensuring the quality of the performance of the profession is the national organisation within Slovakia - Komora reštaurátorov.

Conservation-Restoration education to Masters Degree equivalent to (EQF) Level 7 is recognised and accepted throughout Europe. It is prescribed in the Statutes of the European Network



for Conservation-Restoration Education (ENCoRE) and is upheld by the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations of which Komora is an active member and its high quality activities (e.g. publications issued in cooperation with the Association of Restorers of Slovakia (Obec reštaurátorov), annually supported by means of grants from the Ministry of the Slovak Republic, are well known within our other member organisations from 20 EU and EFTA states currently representing about 6000 professionals.

E.C.C.O. calls on the Slovak National Council to recognize the specificity of the profession of the Conservator-Restorer with its own distinctive deontology authorizing physical engagement with the care and safeguarding of Cultural Heritage, work which is in the public interest. The free movement of professionals within the EU requires regulations to be agreed internationally to secure the best practice in executing work.. The role of E.C.C.O. as a pan-European body, is to define the profession and determine the level of qualification necessary for access to professional practice to support mutual recognition within the EU. By accepting the proposed articles, the excellent example of regulated access to the profession of Reštaurátor in the Slovak Republic, until now one of the leading systems in Europe, will be compromised or destroyed!

Yours faithfully,

Susan Corr  
President of E.C.C.O.

27th October, 2015