

## SUMMARY

**“The Heritage of the City – Europe’s Future, *New Opportunities through Integrated Urban Development*”**

**8 – 9 December 2011**

**E-Werk, Mauerstrasse 78-80, 10117 Berlin**



View across the rooftops of the German capital



The venue: E-Werk in Berlin

On 8 and 9 December 2011, the German Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development hosted the International Congress “The Heritage of the City – Europe’s Future, New Opportunities through Integrated Urban Development” in Berlin.

More and more people are coming to appreciate the historic built environment of Europe’s towns and cities. The potential for integrated urban development inherent in historic monuments, groups of listed buildings and the historic urban fabric is increasingly being recognized and exploited. This appreciation contrasts with the great need for support in performing tasks to preserve and renew the historic heritage. These tasks require integrated thinking and approaches.



The large plenary hall



There was also an intensive exchange of ideas in the fora

The heritage of the city is a European affair. Responsibility for the future of our cities lies at local, regional, national and European levels, in integrated action and in the strategic link-up of all stakeholders. Whereas Asia and South America are witnessing the emergence of more and more megacities with increasingly short urban design intervals, European cities, which have evolved over the course of centuries, are building on their heritage and evolving it in a continuum of urban preservation and urban development. Monuments and protection of the urban architectural

heritage, taken together, are the driving force of an integrated urban development that meets the multiplicity of requirements of a modern urban society.



Presentation of the fora: Brian Smith, Elke Frauns, Matthias Ripp, Dr Terje Nypan (f.l.t.r.)



Dr Birgitta Ringbeck, delegate of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee / Germany

All over the world, more and more people are moving to the cities. European cities, too, are growing and are the largest economic factor in Europe. Today, the European city is a place where people live and work, a centre for services and industry, a venue for culture, sport and events. It has to address the challenges of climate change as well as demographic change and industrial restructuring. Urban development solutions have to be found for new user groups in old neighbourhoods, for migratory movements and the resultant process of gentrification. Tourism is a major economic factor for cities. If cities are to benefit from it, it must offer something to both residents and visitors alike. Thus, it is imperative that monuments and historic neighbourhoods be evolved in order to strengthen the ties between residents and the cities in which they live while at the same time making these cities more attractive to visitors from outside.

There is a multiplicity of tasks. They relate to the European level as well as to the national, regional and local levels. European and national players as well as the already existing networks were thus invited to participate in a mutual exchange of views within the framework of this international congress, to discuss ideas, approaches and utilization options regarding the preservation and evolution of the historic heritage of the European city of the future. Some thoughts on urban affairs, heritage conservation and culture were presented, together with national and international best-practice projects, and discussed in a Europe-wide discourse on the built environment heritage. Here, Germany was able to make a major contribution, drawing on a wealth of experience gained from the financial assistance programme for the protection of the urban architectural heritage and the investment programme for national UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Evening reception hosted by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development in the Erich Klausener Hall



Addresses given by Oda Scheibelhuber, Director-General, Spatial Planning, Urban Development, Housing, Public Building Law at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development / Germany and Prince Alexander of Sayn-Wittgenstein, Vice-President of Europa Nostra / Germany

Resources must be pooled, and cooperation must be sought at all levels of urban affairs, heritage and culture and with academia and industry. Responsibility and the tradition of involving civil society in the conservation and evolution of the heritage must be strengthened. In Europe there are numerous networks that provide support to government action, depending on the shape and orientation of civil society in any given country. This international congress demonstrated impressively that an exchange of ideas and experience is of great importance for strong action by countries at home and for Europe.



Prof. Michael Turner, World Heritage Center / France



Exchange of ideas and experience among participants

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, the speakers, the German UNESCO Commission and the participants all agreed that the dialogue should be continued.

## DAS ERBE DER STADT – EUROPAS ZUKUNFT THE HERITAGE OF THE CITY – EUROPE'S FUTURE



Panel discussion: Prof. Michael Turner, Joachim Zeller, Elke Frauns, Dr Birgitta Ringbeck, Sneska Quaedvlig-Mihailovic, Prof. Jörg Haspel



Plenary