

Alliance 3.3 meeting -

22 October 2015

Speaking notes Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem

I am delighted to see you all again. You are all much appreciated partners and as a small association we depend on good cooperation with like-minded associations in Europe.

It does not matter how big or small you are, sharing is always a key to success.

So what can we mean for the Alliance and what can the Alliance mean for us?

1/ Firstly, we believe **the report of the European Parliament** should be the main priority for the Alliance. There are many important aspects to it. For us two really stand out:

- Firstly, that the report explicitly acknowledges the importance of private bodies managing heritage. We are very often confronted by stakeholders who do not realize the important contribution of those who own and keep alive private heritage. The moral support of the European Parliament is very important for us in convincing governments and other actors to take the private perspective into account. Furthermore, the fact that the report specifically mentions **private-public partnerships** in preserving heritage. For us it is clear that managing heritage is not only the duty of governments. Private actors, be they owners or businesses are deeply affected. For us this is even more a *raison d'être* to be part of the alliance.
 - o How can the alliance support us on promoting this perspective?
- The second issue is the call for **lower VAT on renovations** of built cultural heritage that we can find in **article 12**. For us this is a very important recommendation that would be of great help to our members, who often struggle with the necessary upkeep of their valuable monuments.
 - o How can we make national government take this recommendation into account?
 - o What can the Alliance do?
 - o Who can support us on this?

2/ Secondly, I would like to stress that the European Historic Houses Association would be more than willing to **contribute as a partner to European projects**, like for example the recent Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe report.

As we represent private historic houses and gardens we have **specific knowledge and experience** on a lot of themes that are currently widely overlooked in the field of cultural heritage. We could really bring something extra to for example research projects and would be happy to be involved,

- Please remember to give us a call when you are looking for potential partners.

3/ Another topic on which we are increasingly active is the issue of **education and transmission**. I was happy to read that this is supposed to be one of the priorities of the potential 2018 Year of Cultural Heritage.

As you probably know, the European Historic Houses Association has already set up a very successful **Next Generation project** on transferring the property of private heritage to younger generations. We see a great interest from the children of current owners in preserving, in time, the heritage and believe facilitating the process of succession and helping those young entrepreneurs would be an enormous contribution to the preservation and development of private heritage.

The Alliance could help us on this. For example by helping us in **hosting schools for visits of historic houses** and their gardens, parks and forests

- We would be interested to hear your experiences and work together with you on organizing projects like these.