

**HHA UK: comments on European Parliament Resolution: “Towards an integrated approach to Cultural Heritage in Europe”**

- 1) Notable that the European Parliament has passed a resolution on the European Commission communication from July 2014. This is a document of which we should take notice and very good that it has been put on our agenda.
- 2) The resolution is wide-ranging and designed to meet the concerns of many constituencies. We do not, as EHH, have to agree with all of it.
- 3) It has many recommendations. We cannot comment in detail on them all, but we do pick out four themes, which we believe are of particular importance:
- 4) A) The resolution stresses the economic and social importance of cultural heritage, including the historic environment: this is welcome.

B) The resolution asks that a policy framework be set out for the historic environment – a European Heritage Policy if you will – containing a regulatory framework for monuments, archaeology and historic landscapes, in line with the E.U. treaty. We doubt that a common policy is the answer, but the EHH should keep a close eye on this. The danger is that the E.U. could devote a lot of effort to establishing a policy; whereas it is the member states who must take the right action.

C) We welcome the call for more systematic data. The Heritage Counts for Europe will help in this regard. Better information will help us to make our case in national capitals.

D) The resolution also highlights how skills – including high tech. and conservation skills – are promoted in our sector; the heritage and heritage tourism sector. This is a strong card to play with our governments.

So, proceed with caution, and let's make sure we can extract practical benefit for our national organizations from this interest in heritage at the pan-European level.