



## **Report on the Meeting of Blue Shield National Committees from Europe on the occasion of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018**

**Place:** Royal Library, Brussels, Belgium.  
European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

**Date:** November 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The event was hosted and co-organised by the Belgian and Austrian National Committees of the Blue Shield.

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## 1. Goals of the meeting

The main goals of the meeting were:

- to enhance networking amongst members of the Blue Shield family in Europe and beyond to connect with colleagues from the scientific community in cultural property protection and cultural heritage studies based at European universities and academies
- to liaise with European cultural politicians on the level of the European Parliament
- to communicate with officials and experts from cultural institutions of the European Union in Brussels
- to consult with them on the future of cultural property protection policies in the European Union
- to plan together the future cooperation of Blue Shield in Europe

## 2. Participants at the meeting

Altogether, 12 national committees were present at the meeting. There are 15 registered committees in Europe, and only Italy, Iceland, and the Netherlands were unable to attend. The Dutch National Committee provided a report that was read out at the meeting.

Present were National Committees from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Georgia, Ireland, France, Macedonia, Norway, Poland and the UK.

For the names of participants at the meeting, see Appendix A.

## 3. Programme

### 3.1 Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

The meeting commenced with a Brussels city tour, *Brussels 1900 - Art Nouveau*, sponsored by the Belgian Committee of Blue Shield. After that, participants visited of the *Horta Museum* on Belgian Art Nouveau, a site designated under Enhanced Protection (according to the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention). The event was followed by the formal opening and reception sponsored by the Brussels Capital Region Government and attended by representatives of the ministry of culture, the director of the museum and president of BSI.

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### 3.2 Monday, November 5th, Royal Library

#### Welcome speeches

**- Friedrich Schipper (Austria):**

Setting the Agenda - developing a Blue Shield Network in Europe and working for the integration of cultural property protection in EU policies on cultural heritage

**- Gustave Janssens (Belgium):**

Main challenges for Blue Shield in Belgium

**- Peter Stone (VP of Blue Shield International):**

Report from the international Board of Blue Shield

**Short reports by the European National Committees** (see Appendix B)  
**and other NGOs present at the meeting** (see Appendix C).  
(Overview of reports compiled by Blue Shield international)

**- Françoise Collanges (France):**

First aid for cultural heritage and Blue Shield

**- Johannes Goellner and Friedrich Schipper (Austria):**

The upcoming UNIFIL seminar and field exercise

**- Claudio Cimino (WATCH):**

Current trend on the implementation of the Hague Convention and IHL

**- Silke Vollenhofer Zimmer (Austria):**

Cultural property protection and education - towards a Blue Shield youth programme

**- Johannes Göllner and Viliam Záhurecký (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic):**

Cultural property as strategic infrastructure - a socio-economic field of Research

**- Leylya Strobl (The Roerich Pact Committees):**

The work of the National Roerich Pact Committees in Europe

**- Peter Stone (Blue Shield):**

The Blue Shield Approach

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### 3.3 Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, European Parliament

- MEP (ret) Karl von HABSBURG
- Keynote on behalf of Mrs. Audrey AZOULAY, General Director of UNESCO, by Jan HLADIK
- Statement on behalf of the European Parliament: MEP Daniel DALTON
- Friedrich SCHIPPER (with Christina CEULEMANS and Fionnuala ROGERS):  
The Blue Shield Appeal to MEP Daniel Dalton and the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (see Appendix D).
- A proposal for an enhanced integration of cultural property protection in EU policies on cultural heritage
- Donation to the Blue Shield Summer University (Austria) by Günther NEBEL
- Blue Shield President Award to Colonel Keba SANGARE (Mali)



Left to right: Friedrich Schipper, BS Austria, Col Keba SANGARE, and Karl von Habsburg, President of the Blue Shield

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**- Closing session: general comments and discussions.**

It was noted that such annual meetings are beneficial and another meeting should be held also next year. Future voiced aspirations concerned the enlargement of the network and several suggestions were made, such as greater regional cooperation, where one (or more) National Committees in a region helps with the establishment of National Committees in the neighbouring countries, for example Denmark and Norway could support Sweden or Finland, or Georgia could support Eastern Partnership countries. It was also suggested that the Founding Four could be involved to promote the Blue Shield. The Blue Shield Pasifika National Committee was highlighted by Prof. Peter Stone as an example of a model for a regional Blue Shield, but this will necessitate the change of the Blue Shield statutes. Discussion also concerned the integration of heritage into the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies of various multilateral organisations, such as the UN and EU. The need for partnering with relevant regional and international organizations on the topics of CPP in times of disasters (EU, CoE, UN, UNESCO) was also stressed.

#### **4. Over to you – expanding our network in Europe**

The meeting concluded with the following request from the organisers.

*There are currently 15 national committees of the Blue Shield in Europe and more than 45 countries within the Council of Europe. Every national committee of the Blue Shield in Europe is asked to consider assisting in establishing a new committee in another country according to their existing personal and institutional contacts, as far as they are able. Please, respond to Blue Shield Austria and Blue Shield Belgium by **31 January 2019** to let them know which country you would like to support in building a national Blue Shield committee, so that efforts can be coordinated and organized in correspondence with our International board.*

*With your help we may reconvene in Brussels in November next year with about 30 committees and in 2020 we would be nearly complete.*

*Prof. Dr. Friedrich Schipper  
Austrian National Committee of the Blue Shield  
c/o Austrian Commission for UNESCO  
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Blueshield Austria <[blueshield@blueshield.at](mailto:blueshield@blueshield.at)>*

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*If you have not done so yet, we also ask you to send us the list of your board members so that we know who are our colleagues that we are working with Europe-wide.*

The form Blue Shield Austria and Blue Shield Belgium have created to complete regarding Board members is available for download on the Blue Shield International website, alongside this report.

## 5. Next Meeting

Next year, Blue Shield Belgium Blue Shield Austria intend to hold another meeting in Brussels on **November 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. The main theme of the meeting will be: **"20 years 2nd Protocol to the Hague Convention"**.



Attendees of the European Blue Shield Meeting outside the European Parliament

## Appendix A - List of participants

First Name	Family Name	Citizenship	Status
Françoise	Aubry	Belgium	
Michèle	Callut	Belgium	
Christina	Ceulemans	Belgium	
Claudio	Cimino	Italy	
Britt	Claes	Belgium	
Françoise	Collanges	France	
Teresa Maria	Cristina Martins Patricio	Portugal	
David	Fallmann	Austria	
Benjamin	Goes	Belgium	
Johannes	Göllner	Austria	
Jan	Hladík	Czech Republic	UNESCO
Gustave	Janssens	Belgium	
Faguimba Ibrahima	Kansaye	Mali	guest
Ulla Bøgvad	Kejser	Denmark	
Lidia	Klupsz	Poland	
Patricia	La Piskopia	Italy (and Ireland)	
Jacqueline	Lambert	Belgium	
Kjetil	Landrog	Norway	
Marie Laure	Leclef	Belgium	
Isabelle	Leroy	Belgium	
Claude-Marie	Monneron-Craste	France	
Leylya	Mustafayeva-Strobl	Austria	
Günter	Nebel	Austria	
Anne-Cathérine	Olbrechts	Belgium	
Dariia	Polosina	Russian Federation	
Fionnuala	Rogers	UK	
Britta	Rudolff	Germany	
Joanna Zofia	Sałacińska	Poland	
Krzysztof Tadeusz	Sałaciński	Poland	
Kéba	Sangare	Mali	guest
Friedrich	Schipper	Austria	
Cisse	Sékou dit Gaoussou	Mali	guest
Myriam	Serck-Dewaide	Belgium	
Jana	Souckova	Czech Republic	
Aleksandr	Stetsenko	Russian Federation	

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Peter	Stone	UK	
Manana	Tevezadze	Georgia	
Davorin	Trpeski	Macedonia	
Peeter	Vähi	Estonia	
Françoise	Van Hauwaert	Belgium	
Silke	Vollenhofer-Zimmel	Austria	
Karl	Von Habsburg	Austria	
Harald	Wögerbauer	Austria	
Talieh	Wögerbauer	Austria	
Viliam	Zathurecky	Czech Republic	
Benjamin	Zurstrassen	Belgium	

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## Appendix B – National Committee Reports

### Summary of Reports by the European National Committees

Each National Committee had the opportunity to present their work since the 2017 General Assembly in a 10-minute presentation. The reports will be published on the website of Blue Shield Belgium: <http://wordpress.blueshieldbelgium.be/en/> but a summary is provided here.

#### **Belgium**

The Belgium NC introduced the committee and its structure and their activities, such as their annual conference, which last year was dedicated to water related hazards to heritage. Their report also talked about a week-long training they had organized called “Hostile environment awareness training”. The committee is involved in the compiling of lists of CPP under Hague Convention. The committee has been advocating for reestablishment of the Art and Antiquities police by collecting signatures for the petition and organizing hearings at the Senate.

#### **Blue Shield International**

Prof. Peter Stone, the Vice President of BSI presented the work of BSI.

Main topics covered were the six areas of activity of the blue Shield. 1) The work with UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights, Karima Bennouna, and cooperation with partners, such as UNESCO. The Vice President also talked about developing training modules for the military and Blue Shields cooperation with armed forces in the UK, the US Air Force (USAF), NATO, Peacekeeping forces from Fiji and the UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon) peacekeeping deployment. He mentioned that work is underway to prepare an online training module. Concerning proactive protection and inventory development, the BSI and its Newcastle team have been actively cooperating with NATO, US and UK militaries on the standardization of no strike list information as the database fields are different in each database of NATO, US and UK ministries of defence. NATO have now standardized what fields they want in their database, but have not developed a data collection system. BSI have also participated in a number of conferences, giving talks and running workshops at Coping with Culture, Culture in Conflict conferences and the USAF Annual Symposium. Peter Stone also highlighted the BSI’s support to national committees, for example, Australia asked for support to work with the civil servants about Hague Convention. The new communication platform – the new website - was also introduced.

#### **Austria**

The Austrian NC reported that they have a new president – Ms. Agnes Husslein, former head of the National Gallery of Austria. Austria is also involved in the upcoming UNIFIL training in April 2019. Various partnerships between the Austrian NC and other active stakeholders in the field were mentioned, such as: Blue Shield Youth Programme and Summer Academy with University of Vienna of Applied Sciences and Universities of Graz and Salzburg, Roerich Societies and the Roerich Center, Risk and Crisis Management Cooperation, among others.

#### **Czech Republic**

The NC from Czech Republic reported about the UNESCO recommendations on museums implemented in the Czech museums. Other news included the reconstruction of their website. The committee highlighted that they organise a conference annually. In 2017 the annual conference related to security matters of heritage. The news on the ratification of The Hague Convention Second Protocol was also shared and received applause from the audience.

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### **Denmark**

Like Czech Republic, Denmark also ratified the 2<sup>nd</sup> protocol which is coming into force this month. Working groups on Emergency Preparedness and Response were introduced, and their work liaising with armed forces and their participation in the Coping with Culture conference workshop organised by BSI. The DNC also reported on their collaboration with Nordic Countries and civil defence. Heritage Fridays – a yearly, half day event initiated in 2016 – were also introduced. Each year the themes relate to the Blue Shield Denmark agenda. This year's focus was on Cultural Property and Armed Conflicts as well as Culture and Climate Change and the UNSDG 13. It was noted that the HF are co-funded by UNESCO DK and ICOM Denmark.

### **Germany**

The German NC reported only briefly as the committee is still very young: it has 6 institutional members. Since its founding, 3 members left. Now they have a new president and secretary general and treasurer and a new board. The formal event for its inauguration is planned for May 2019.

### **Ireland**

The Irish NC reported about the ICCROM First Aid course held in February 2018, where many different sectors were involved. They also reported on the ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention and both Protocols, and their upcoming screening of the film "Destruction of Memory."

### **Macedonia**

The Macedonia NC reported about its activities over the last 2 years; among them, a Forum organized on emergency equipment in the cultural institutions held in Skopje at the National Gallery, and theoretical training on fire hazards followed by practical exercise of evacuation. There is a plan to do more such training for library and archive staff.

### **Netherlands**

The Dutch NC reported (via a submitted report read on their behalf) on the 3-week long course on First Aid in Times of Armed Conflict (FAC) held in the Netherlands this Summer, their involvement after the disaster in St. Martin island in cooperation with Caribbean heritage network and BS Curacao and Guatemala. They also posed 2 questions to the Blue Shield: 1. Relating to sub-committees of the BSI Board – can the board members be supported by non-members from other NCs and share their experience? 2. Regarding Financial support – are founding organisations willing to support BSI? These questions were taken by the Secretary of BSI to be reported to the BSI board.

### **Norway**

The Norwegian NC reported briefly to say that so far the committee is still very small and its aspiration for the next year is to make its presence more visible and develop a webpage.

### **Poland**

The Polish NC reported about a conference – Evacuation of Collections - held in 2017 in Krakow and about the upcoming seminar for Eastern Europe to be held in Gdansk. In 2019, it is planned to hold another conference at the University of Warsaw and commemorate the anniversaries of the conventions.

### **UK**

The UK NC reported on the ratification of the Hague Convention and both Protocols in 2017, and on their two ensuing position papers with recommendations on the government's guidelines for the

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implementation of the Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Act (2017). The conference - Making Cultural Property Protection an Operational Reality –was held in April 2018. The report also highlighted the creation of the UK's new Cultural Protection Unit, which will be formed from 15 specialized reserves, who will be deployed in armed conflict in which cultural heritage is at risk. The UK has also written a position paper on the forthcoming EU Cultural Property Import Regulations. The UK also has several future plans, such as: supporting the conference “Protecting Heritage in Armed Conflict and situations of Foreseeable Displacement” to be held in March 2019 and the heritage destruction exhibition to be held at the Imperial War Museum in the Summer of 2019 and the conference to mark its closing. It was noted that 2 members of BSUK are on the advisory board for these events.

### **France**

The French NC reported about training and exercises for cultural heritage rescue. Their report mentioned their annual conference, and fire simulation training in South-west France. A BS France member has recently taken the ICCROM FAC course: the report talked about its methodology and its use in the national training.

### **Georgia**

The Georgian NC reported about their activities in the areas of capacity building and public awareness raising, and mentioned the training held for museum professionals and volunteers using the FAC methodology. It also mentioned some of the recent translations and publications, such as the Georgian version of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, and the ICCROM and UNESCO manual on emergency evacuation of collections. GNCBS's advocacy work for DRR for heritage was also mentioned and its participation in the events for marking the International Day for DDR. Representing the FAC network as an alumna of the ICCROM FAC and FAC Leadership courses, the representative of GNCBS took the opportunity to introduce the newly published ICCROM FAC Handbook and Toolkit which could be a good resource to be used by NCs for their training.

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## Appendix C – NGO Reports

Besides the NCs, reports were also given by the other NGOs present:

Flemish experience was shared by an NGO called FARO dealing with cultural heritage. They reported about their work on DICE – a database for incidents of cultural emergencies, as well as their training in emergency response and first aid that was attended by total of 70 organizations.

Other speakers represented the following organisations:

- Center for Risk and Crisis Management, Austria cooperating with BS Austria and participating in the fact-finding mission in December 2018 in Lebanon.
- WATCH International
- Roerich Society
- Kinder Uni Kunst – an Austrian organization dealing with children education in arts and heritage
- Masaryk University from the Czech Republic

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## Appendix D - The Blue Shield Appeal to MEP Daniel Dalton and the EUROPEAN PARLIAMET



The Blue Shield Appeal to MEP Daniel Dalton and the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT on the Occasion  
of the 1st Meeting of the European National Committees of the Blue Shield  
Marking the European Year of Cultural Heritage  
2018 on 4 – 6 November 2018, in Brussels

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Blue Shield is the prime consultative body to UNESCO. This is based on its mandate under the 2nd Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. Therefore, the Blue Shield is also the natural consultative body for the EU and its institutions when considering cultural property protection during armed conflict.

The Blue Shield constitutes the only expert organisation that includes all cultural property – monuments and sites, museums, archives, libraries, and cultural institutions of all kinds. Our competence encompasses the expertise of the military and law enforcement as well as heritage professionals and non-governmental organizations, thereby bringing together the knowledge and experience of international networks for cultural property protection.

### **HOW WE CAN HELP**

We are aware that the EU – in a constant dialogue with the Council of Europe – has developed an aspirational Cultural Heritage policy over the past decades that is perhaps unrivalled. Nevertheless, we suggest the EU could be stronger in its work regarding the protection of cultural property as required by the 1954 Hague Convention, which includes the prevention of illegal export of cultural property during conflict. We believe that closer cooperation between the Blue Shield and both the EU and CoE would assist efforts to protect and preserve cultural property in armed conflict and prevent its illicit trafficking. Through such cooperation we might significantly increase the effectiveness of all cultural property protection work in Europe.

The world looks to the EU as a leader in the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights which include the right to culture. During the UNESCO and EU joint initiative in Paris ‘Fighting the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property’ (in which several members of Blue Shield participated) the European Commission re-asserted its intention to lead the way in this area and acknowledged its responsibility. Blue Shield and its European national committees stand ready to support the EU in its mission to protect and preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

In particular, we ask you as MEP and Special Rapporteur on the EU Cultural Property Import Regulations to urge the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Institutions of the European Union to follow the example of UNESCO in consulting Blue Shield

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in terms of EU cultural property protection in policy, legislation and implementation measures, and to explicitly integrate cultural property protection as a crucial element in the cultural heritage policies of European Union.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR CONSULTATION**

Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022: The European Commission has prioritised Cultural Heritage but fails to list cultural property protection as a priority, which we believe is a disadvantage to all research and development in the field of cultural property protection in general and, in particular, in armed conflict.

Horizon Europe: This programme is currently being drafted – decisively determining the priorities and conditions for research in the upcoming decade and we ask and urge you to lobby for cultural property protection being explicitly included in this programme.

EU Cultural Property Import Regulations: Whilst Blue Shield was not consulted directly on this Regulation, Blue Shield has been discussing this Regulation and its implementation in each member state in which it operates and with partner organisations such as UNESCO and ICOM. The European National Committees of the Blue Shield remain available to offer support, advice and expertise at the negotiation stages of this Regulation and during implementation to ensure it achieves its ambitious objective.

Nicosia Convention - Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property: Individual members of Blue Shield were consulted by the Special Rapporteur and provided input into the draft Convention. Blue Shield National Committees will now work towards promotion of ratification and implementation but recommend that Blue Shield is consulted on these measures as the official consultative body for the protection of cultural property in conflict.

In terms of fundamental policies, the Declarations of the European Conferences of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage (1969, 1985, 1996, 2011, 2015) previously fell short in referring to the urgent issue of the protection of cultural property during armed conflict. Due to Blue Shield's intervention the latest Declaration, the Namur Declaration 2015, was complemented by the Namur Call. This was based on a document drafted by the Austrian and UK National Committees of the Blue Shield, which resulted in cultural property protection being included on the cultural heritage agenda of the Ministers' specialized meetings for the first time in the history of the Council of Europe. This is an example of how the Blue Shield European committees can assist all EU Institutions and the Council of Europe in its mission to lead by example in cultural property protection during conflict, including illicit trafficking.