

## **Update on the Activities of the Technical Committee 346 - Conservation of Cultural Property - After a Three Year Period**

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The application of sciences in conservation is a very recent concept developed in the last five decades. The international scientific community has become aware of the very specific needs that the conservation of cultural property has and has become far more active in this field than it was in the past twenty or thirty years ago. This is "per se" a confirmation that the protection and conservation of our cultural property cannot be successful without science and research.

A specific European standardisation activity in the field of conservation of Cultural Heritage is essential to develop a common unified scientific approach to the problems relevant to the preservation/conservation of the Cultural Heritage.

In 2001 UNI, the Italian standardisation body, presented a request to CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) to create a new TC (Technical Committee) dealing with the conservation of cultural property. The scope of CEN/TC 346 is *the standardisation in the field of definitions and terminology, methods of testing and analysis, to support the characterisation of materials and deterioration processes of movable and immovable heritage, and the products and technologies used for the planning and execution of their conservation, restoration, repair and maintenance.*

In particular, the standardisation activity on the conservation of Cultural Heritage deals with:

- 1) Terminology relevant to movable and immovable cultural property: to its conservation and its constituting materials so as to create a common European terminology;
- 2) Guidelines for a methodological approach to the understanding of cultural property and the deterioration processes of its constituting materials, as well as the conditions for optimum long term conservation (preservative conservation);
- 3) Testing and analytical methods for the diagnosis and the characterisation of the cultural property and of their state of conservation with regards to outdoor and indoor environmental parameters;
- 4) Testing and analytical methods (in laboratory and in-situ) for the evaluation of the performance of the products and methodologies used in the conservation work (ordinary and/or extraordinary maintenance);
- 5) Testing and analytical methods for the evaluation of conservation conditions of indoor Cultural Heritage. In particular, standardisation in transportation and packaging methods, shall take in into account the needs and problems related to itinerant exhibitions and exchanges of works of art, in the permanent presentation conditions in museums, galleries, libraries and archives, in temporary exhibit galleries, in stores and in transport packaging systems.

A close co-operation should be established with European Commission Directorate-General for Research as well as European and International non governmental professional organisations dedicated to the conservation of Cultural Heritage, such as International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations (E.C.C.O.), or the intergovernmental organization ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property).

In 2003 CEN members approved the Business Plan and in June 2004 in the first meeting the author of present abstract was appointed to Chair CEN/TC 346 for a six year period.

Currently there are 29 CEN members: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Island, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

The CENTC/346 activities are divided in 5 working groups (WG):

#### **WG1 – Guidelines and terminology**

- *WI00346002-Main general terms and definition concerning conservation of cultural property*: definition of general terms used in the field of conservation of cultural property with particular attention to those terms which have wide use or significance
- *WI00346003: Glossary of damage*: definition of damage terms determined by macroscopic examination as a first step to diagnosis

#### **WG2- Materials constituting cultural property**

Work item 001/a: Diagnosis on building surfaces.

Work item 001/b: Diagnosis of building structures

Work Item 004: Characterisation of stone and related materials

Work item 005-Characterisation of mortars

Work item 006: Classification and characterisation of pigments, dyes and colours used in artefacts

#### **WG3 – Evaluation of methods and products for conservation works**

- *prEN 15801-Determination of water absorption by capillarity* (under CEN enquiry) : a test method to characterise the water absorption by capillarity of porous inorganic materials.
- *prEN 15802-Measurement of static contact angle* (under CEN enquiry): a test method for the measurement of the static contact angle of a water drop of porous inorganic materials.
- *prEN 15803-Determination of water vapour permeability ( $\delta$ )* (under CEN enquiry): a test method for the calculation of the water vapour permeability (WVP) of porous inorganic materials.
- *WI00346007-Colour measurement of surfaces* : a test method for measuring the surface colour of porous inorganic materials, and their possible chromatic changes due to any conservation work and/or natural ageing or artificial interventions.

#### **WG4 - Environment**

- *prEN 15757-Specifications for temperature and relative humidity to limit climate-induced damage in organic hygroscopic materials* (under CEN enquiry) : general specifications for temperature and relative humidity to limit climate induced mechanical damage of absorbing moisture, organic materials, especially in indoor environments of museums,

galleries, archives, libraries, churches and modern or historical buildings

- *prEN 15758-Procedures and instruments for measuring temperatures of the air and the surfaces of objects* (under CEN enquiry) : the procedures for measuring the temperature of the air and of the surfaces of cultural heritage objects in indoor and outdoor environments.
- *prEN 15759-Specification and control of indoor environment-heating of historic churches* (under CEN enquiry) : recommendations for the heating of historic churches in order to prevent damage to the buildings and their contents.

## **WG5 - Transportation and packing methods**

Preparation of a European standard on packing methods