

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE EUROPEAN ITINERARY OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Oviedo, November 5th 2008

In the city of Oviedo, on November 5th 2008, at nine am, at the Auditorio-Palacio de Congresos "Príncipe Felipe", are meeting the following representatives:

B'nai B'rith Europe: Mrs. Claude Bloch

European Council of Jewish Communities: Mrs. Annie Sacerdoti

Red de Juderías de España: Mrs. Assumpció Hosta, general secretary; Ms. Claudia de Santos, Mr. Jesús Alava, Mr. Anxo Collate, from the city councils of Segovia, Tudela and Ribadavia; the technical delegates of the cities: Ms. M^a Angeles Arnedo (Calahorra), Ms. Mayte Asín (Tudela), Ms. Sandra Fernández (León), Ms. M^a del Mar Muñiz (Ribadavia), Ms. Belén Peña (Segovia), Ms. Teresa Serra (Barcelona), Mr. Eugenio Corpas (Oviedo), Mr. Juan Cuevas (Jaén), Mr. Ismael Martin (Plasencia), Mr. Rafael Pérez de la Concha (Córdoba)

Representatives of the coordination of the European Day of Jewish Culture: Mrs. Donata Dauksaite (Lithuania), Mrs. Sira Fatucci and Mrs. Michela Zanon (Italy), Ms. Edith Jankov (Serbia), Mrs. Ethel Morhayim (Turkey), Mr. Maros Borsky (Slovakia), Mr. Peter Gyori (Czech Republic), Mr. Hans Joosten (Holland), Mr. Jakub Nabukowski (Poland), Mr. Claude Sabin Nadjari (France), and Mr. Jorge Neves (Portugal).

The meeting begins with a presentation made by Mrs. Annie Sacerdoti, representative of the steering committee, by giving a retrospective overview and a historic analysis of the EDJC from its beginnings, taking into account both quantitative and qualitative points of view. The accompanying power point will be issued together with other material from the workshop in a CD and sent to all participants.

Then the following participants shared their experiences with regards to the EDJC and general aspects of working with Jewish heritage:

Mrs. Sira Fatucci, as national coordinator of the event in Italy; Mrs. Michela Zanon, head of the didactic department of the Jewish Museum of Venice; Mr. Jakub Nabukowski, representative of the Galicia Jewish Museum; Mrs. Donata Dauksaite, from the Lithuanian Heritage Ministry; Mr. Jorge Neves, as coordinator of the EDJC in Portugal; Ms. Edith Jankov, representative of the Jewish Community in Novi Sad (Serbia), Mr. Hans Joosten, representative of B'nai B'rith Holland, and finally, Mrs. Ethel Morhayim, representing the organisation of the EDJC in Turkey, who showed an impressive video summing up the highlights of the event in Istanbul.

These presentations had been preceded, on the previous day, by those made on behalf of France, Spain, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. They all commented on the results of the EDJC 2008, as well as on the problems which had aroused, and everyone stressed the effort it takes to find the necessary funding in order to finance the event.

The following chart shows the results in numbers of the EDJC 2008:

9th EUROPEAN DAY OF JEWISH CULTURE, September 7th 2008

EVALUATION SHEET EUROPE

Country	N° of cities	N° of activities	N° of Visitors
Belgium	8	18	1.926
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	3	385
Bulgaria			
Czech Republic	7	14	1.300
Croatia	2	2	430
Denmark	1	1	98
France (*)	37	76	4.962
Germany (1)	51	160	8.250
Greece			
Holland	5	12	655
Hungary	3	6	600
Italy	62	84	44.216
Lithuania	4	12	510
Macedonia			
Norway	2	10	1.910
Poland (2)	1	6	195
Portugal	1	2	37
Romania			
Slovakia	3	9	1.868
Slovenia		10	485
Serbia	1	5	1.695
Spain	26	125	54.449
Sweden	2	12	1.350
Switzerland	8	36	3.000
Turkey	1	22	3.000
United Kingdom		86	7.975
Ukraine	4	25	3.750
TOTAL:	232	736	143.046

- (*) Only Alsace**
- (1) Only Baden-Württemberg**
- (2) Only Krakow**

Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia and Romania, though having confirmed their participation, have not sent any evaluation.

As to the other countries, the end results of Poland and France are still lacking. The national coordinator of France, Mr. Claude Nadjari, announces the final numbers of France being around a 20.000 participants, and promises to send the final results to the secretary office as soon as possible.

The meeting continues with a debate of all participants pondering over ways to improve future editions of the EDJC.

Annex 1 of the documentation handed out is used as a guideline to structure the debate:

PREPARATION GUIDE:

1. Goals
2. Organisation
3. Preparation
4. Technical data
5. Communication and promotion
6. Evaluation
7. Financial scheme

No objections are made with regards to goals, or to the organisation of the previous editions. As to the preparation, a general request of receiving materials and texts earlier than up to now is made, so as to be able to dedicate sufficient time to planning and seeking financial support. Another request for more detailed information on and around the chosen subject matter is also made.

On a temporary basis, and until new resolutions are adopted by the Consultative Council of the EDJC, the general coordination of the event will stay at the secretary office of the Red de Juderías de España-Caminos de Sefarad:

Address: Apartado 379 – 17080 Girona
Phone / Fax: +34 972 414146 / +34 972 414147

E-mail: aepj@jewishheritage.org

Temporary European Secretary: Assumpció Hosta
International coordination: Ariane Roura

Next, the discussion focuses on the technical aspects and details of the EDJC 2009 - 2010:

Subject matter:

The first point to be discussed is the subject matter. After a long and interesting debate, 12 proposals have come up:

1. Jewish women
2. Childhood
3. Festivities and Traditions
4. Languages
5. Interculturality

6. Diaspora
7. Crossing destinies
8. Creativity and Innovation
9. Dialogue
10. The Jewish Contribution to the Construction of Europe
11. Literature
12. Sustainability and Environment

Since no unanimous agreement on any of these subjects can be reached, two options are proposed:

- A. The first option is to decide by secret ballot of the participants.
- B. The second option is for the secretary office to send the list of subject matters, together with some additional criteria, to all participants by e-mail, fixing a deadline for voting. The results of the voting will be sent to all the participants before the end of the year 2008. This way will have the subject matter for the year 2009, as well as a provisional one for 2010.

Finally, option B is chosen, with the agreement that those who do not send their answer before the fixed deadline will not be taken into account with regards to the quorum, thus will have to accept the subject matter chosen as a result of the voting.

Logo

Then the use of the logos on the printed material and the electronic communication is discussed. After a fruitful debate, the participants agree to use, from 2009 on, obligatorily the logos of both the AEPJ and the European Council on all types of material of communication in order to enhance the corporate image. On the other hand, the representatives of the different countries are free to add logos of other organizations and entities according to the criteria or needs of each.

Poster

As to the poster to be used, after 9 editions, and taking advantage of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the event in 2009, the general opinion is in favour of a change of image. The decision is made to ask for design proposals, and it is agreed that both the representative of Italy and the secretary office will collect several designs to look over.

It is also proposed to establish a schedule of procedure for those who wish to present their design proposals, which should be sent to the secretariat, who, in its turn, will inform everyone about the proposals received.

Communication

In general terms this aspect is working rather well, but the fluidity of the information should be improved, and, in some cases, the programmes on the website should be inserted more in advance. It is also asked to make an effort in order to speed up the sending of pre- and post-event information, and the coordinators are specifically encouraged to use the tools which the new website provides to this purpose.

Date of the event

After making a short analysis of the results of former editions, as well as considering other aspects, such as holidays, Jewish religious festivities, school calendars, etc., it is decided to keep up the established date, not least in order to take advantage of the fact that this date is already well known in a great part of the participating countries. Thus, the event will be held on the first Sunday of September.

Evaluation

On this subject the improvement has been substantial, since the speed of reply has increased; the quality of photographs and videos has improved, as has the media impact in each country.

The presentations which have been made during this workshop are a perfect reflection of this evolution.

The executive committee will be in charge of introducing the changes which might be considered necessary, to the currently existing system of evaluation.

Finances

With regards to 2009, each of the responsible organisations of the AEPJ commits itself to sustain the current financing, which will have to be shared with the programme of European routes. One of the major aspects of the task of the new executive committee will be the search for funding through international programmes, besides studying ways and means to sustain the EDJC.

At this point, and at the request of some of the participants, the current steering committee of the AEPJ is asked to issue a document acknowledging international cooperation between the AEPJ and the different groups, associations, communities and companies sharing the project of the EDJC. It is agreed that the AEPJ will draw up this document, submit it to general approval and then will proceed to sign the agreements before the end of this year, if possible.

Executive committee

Finally, criteria for the proper working of the committee are being discussed. They should grant the continuance and the improvement of the event.

- ✓ Drawing- up of working proposal and texts
- ✓ International coordination of the event
- ✓ Availability for two annual meetings, at places with easy access for all participants
- ✓ Keeping track and evaluating results
- ✓ Annual report

The current steering committee suggests that the executive committee should be formed by a representative of Italy, Spain, France, Slovakia and Czech Republic, as well as a representative of the AEPJ. The proposal is accepted unanimously.

Before the lunch break, the AEPJ sums up the agreements reached during the morning, and congratulates all participants on the magnificent work they all have been carrying out organising the EDJC, and on the results obtained. From the point of view of the years having passed since the first edition, the results are certainly to be considered as a spectacular achievement, thanks to the dedication and devotion of each and every one of those present.

Then, at 2 pm, a lunch break is made.

From 3 to 4 pm takes place a technical session for those who wish to learn about the tools which are at their disposal at the new website of the association, such as the use of the mailbox @jewishheritage.org, the intranet system to access and insert

documents, photographs, working sessions, etc. The ordinary session starts again at 4 pm.

At 4 pm the session continues with the presentation of the document, annex 2 of the documentation handed out, containing the Resolution CM/Res (2007)12 on the cultural routes of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on October 10th 2007.

Mrs. Assumpció Hosta explains the process of innovation, which had begun upon suggestion and impulse by the Red de Juderías de España, and which has obtained the recognition of the Institute of European Cultural Itineraries after 4 years of intense work. During these years the necessary instruments have been set up, including the creation of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of the Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ). Furthermore, the recognition of the Jewish routes has been rewarded by being distinguished with the label and certificate of "Major Cultural Route" in Strasbourg in December 2005.

The participants are also informed about the results of the last meeting which the Council of Europe has held in October 2008, gathering the representatives of each of the 24 routes, as well as the representatives of the Council of Europe, Mrs. Françoise Tondre, in charge of the Cultural Routes of the CE; Mr. Michel Thomas-Penette, director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (IEIC); Mrs. Roberta Alberotanza, of the Council of Orientation of the CE; Mr. Robert Palmer, head of the department of Culture and cultural Heritage of the CE; and Mrs. Irena Guidikova, head of Cultural Policies, Diversity and Dialogue of the CE. The purpose of the meeting was to present the new regulation of the routes, their latter evaluation and their authorisation, or not, depending on that evaluation. Bearing in mind that already 20 years have passed since the creation of the routes, the Council of Europe has considered it necessary to adjust and bring them up to date. This new process of authorisation is done through the IEIC, with headquarters in Luxembourg.

Up to now there are 4 routes which have obtained this authorisation: The Jacobean Route, the Via Francigena, the Phoenician Route and the Route of Saint Martin of Tours. After presenting all the required documentation, our route has just been evaluated by the council of Orientation at the beginning of October, being currently examined in depth and awaiting the verdict.

After explaining the general framework of reference and the basic criteria of any given cultural route, the list of priorities of actions in order to develop the route correctly as such, are being examined. This list can be summed up as follows:

1. *Cooperation in the field of research and development*
2. *Valorisation of the European memory, history and heritage*
3. *Cultural and educational exchanges between European youths*
4. *Contemporary practice of culture and arts*
5. *Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development*

Next, the criteria for the authorisation are summed up, as well as the methodological procedure for award and authorisation, such as mentioned in the document of reference.

After this introduction, the participants take turns to explain the specific material related to the Jewish heritage route of each place, which, in form of printed or virtual material, activities, actions or services each community, organisation or representative can contribute.

The result is highly satisfactory, since each and every place has, to a major or minor degree, published material and carries out some kind or other of cultural activities related to the Jewish heritage.

Spain, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia and France, because of their high level of organisation and management, both with regards to activities and services, and to scientific and popular material, take an outstanding place in this matter.

In view of these results, it is decided that the current steering committee of the AEPJ will draw up a rough copy of a bilateral agreement with organisations, institutions or companies dedicated to the development and revalorisation of Jewish heritage in the aforementioned places, in order to propose a line of action which is coherent with the interests of the group; matters of management, organisation and finances are left to be decided on in the future.

Finally, the representatives of the AEPJ, Mrs. Annie Sacerdoti, Mrs. Claude Bloch and Mrs. Assumpció Hosta thank all the participants for the time employed in these two days of the workshop, as well as for the great task everyone has carried out. They also congratulate everyone on the high degree of goals achieved and agreements reached to foster a greater productivity and visibility of the European route of Jewish heritage.

The final words are dedicated to acknowledgements: to thank the translators for their work, dealing with so many different languages during the working sessions; there are also thanks to the European Institute of Cultural Routes, Casa Sefarad-Israel, El Al Airlines, B'nai B'rith Europe, European Council of Jewish Communities, Red de Juderías de España-Caminos de Sefarad, as well as to all the technical team for the excellent organisation of the event.

A special acknowledgement is directed towards the delegates of the Red de Juderías de España who have been present, and amongst whom we would like to single out Ms. Claudia de Santos, council woman of Segovia, and the council men of Tudela and Ribadavia, Mr. Jesús Álava and Mr. Anxo Collate.

Last but not least our acknowledgement to the Council and city of Oviedo as an excellent host in the double role of chairing both the Red de Juderías de España and the AEPJ, and who has been essential to the success of this workshop.

And without any further issues to address, the meeting is being brought to an end at six pm, which we herewith testify,

Executive Committee

Claude Bloch
B'nai B'rith Europe

Annie Sacerdoti
European Council of
Jewish communities

Assumpció Hosta
Red de Juderías de
España-Caminos de Sefarad