

**Summary Report of the Meeting on Periodic Reporting
For Europe and North America, 2 July 2003
UNESCO Headquarters, Room VI, 13:30-14:30**

Tamás Fejerdy, chairperson of the Working Group on Periodic Reporting that was set up during the Nicosia Meeting, opened the meeting by introducing the Periodic Reporting exercise and the results of recent meetings and the decisions taken therein.

The floor was given to Mechtild Rössler, Chief of the World Heritage Centre's Europe and North America Unit, who gave an overview of the European Periodic Reporting process. She explained that out of the five UNESCO-regions, Europe and North America is dealing with the highest number of States (50) and of sites (52%). The Periodic Report has two Sections. The first one refers to the implementation of the 1972 Convention in the State Parties, the second one to site-related questions. 8 State Parties have to fill in Section I only, as they had no sites inscribed before 1998. In total, Section II will have to be completed for 1197 sites. The whole process has been divided into six phases, concluding with the adoption by the World Heritage Committee of the whole report for North America and Section I for Europe in June 2005 (phase V), and with the adoption of Section II for Europe in 2006 (phase VI).

She remarked that the Periodic Reporting Exercise is currently in a transition period from phase I to phase II. Data on national focal points to coordinate the exercise in their countries have already been collected, special web pages have been created at www.whc.unesco.org and the focal points are already establishing a list of site managers to be co-responsible for Section II of the Report. Several general, sub-regional and national meetings are being organised to train the focal points and the site managers. National meetings have already taken place in Italy and the UK, and are being prepared in Germany and France. A sub-regional meeting took place in North America, and are foreseen in Russia, Hungary, and most probably Spain next year. Other meetings will be organised for South Western Europe and South Eastern Europe.

She emphasized that for the completion of phases I and II of the Periodic Report Exercise, (I) State Parties are requested to appoint a focal point as a matter of urgency if they haven't done so; (II) Focal points should start collecting information for Section I and begin contacting the site managers to prepare Section II and provide them with them the CD-Rom that the World Heritage Centre has sent containing the nominations and ICOMOS/IUCN evaluations, and (3) the site managers are requested to start collecting their site-specific information.

The Europe desk of the World Heritage Centre also presented in brief the results of the recent meeting held Nicosia, Cyprus (May 2003), which have also been put on the new Periodic Reporting website. A working group was set up in Nicosia to provide advice and support throughout the whole Periodic Reporting process. Tamás Fejerdy (Hungary) was appointed Chair, Christopher Young (ICOMOS UK) Rapporteur and the Europe Unit of the WHC as Secretariat. The participation of States Parties and advisory bodies was strongly encouraged. The Nicosia-meeting welcomed the development of the website, and requested to include the Questionnaire on Periodic Reporting used by other regions for comments by the States Parties. CD-Roms with information on the nominations were distributed, and cooperation with the Council of Europe's HEREIN electronic tool that is being developed was encouraged. The Nicosia-meeting also encouraged co-operation and integration of all online-tools to simplify the work of the State

Parties in entering data. Finally, the Nicosia-meeting endorsed the proposals to organise sub-regional meetings and encouraged all State Parties to establish national timetables for Periodic Reporting.

Christopher Young (UK) presented the results of the recent UK national meeting. He outlined, the principal stages of the preparation of Section I of the Report in the UK: agreement on the format, preparation of draft responses, preparation and clearance by the Government of the final drafts with national agencies and completion of Section I synthetic report for Europe. For each of the stages both the duration and the key partners have been specified (WHC, ICOMOS, ICOMOS UK, IUCN, IUCN UK, Government, National Agencies). It was agreed in the meeting that this timetable should be made accessible to all State Parties through the PR-Website. The speaker also recalled the complexity of decentralized systems when it comes to the responsibilities for filling in the Periodic Report. For instance, DCMS was responsible for England, and other institutions or agencies for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He remarked that an annual arrangement had been closed between DCMS and ICOMOS UK to support the evaluation process, and that the coordination at national level would be done by DCMS. The representative of Spain also remarked that his country had concluded an agreement with ICOMOS-Spain for the internal evaluation.

Several State Parties then gave information on the forthcoming sub-regional meetings. In the Russian Federation the meeting was scheduled for the last week of September, with the participation of CIS-countries Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia and others. Hungary has scheduled the meeting for April/May 2004 depending on whether a positive answer was given to the country's request for International Assistance. For this meeting the Central European States Parties are invited. The representative of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation explained that they have scheduled a first meeting on Periodic Reporting at the regular Nordic site managers' conference in September 2003 in Finland. The German-speaking countries were going to meet in July 2003 in Brühl, Germany. They have foreseen discussions to clarify the involvement of national agencies, ICOMOS and IUCN. France said no meeting was scheduled yet, but that they were ready to co-operate at sub-regional level. The meeting in Italy had taken place in May in Val di Noto, Sicily.

The World Heritage Centre finally presented the budget-related aspects of the exercise, remarking that the limited resources should be carefully used and that they could finance sub-regional meetings, as the Periodic Reporting exercise also aims to be a means to analyse the tendencies within the regions.

Paul van Lindt, Belgian co-ordinator for the Flemish Funds that finance the adaptation of the HEREIN tool to the WHC's needs, took the floor to recall that the development of the tool had been temporarily stopped due to specific contractual issues that had to be solved and to the need to have more information on the structure of the tool, which will be based on the Periodic Reporting Questionnaires.

The chairperson closed the meeting by recalling that all information discussed would be available soon through the WHC-website.