



**EUROPEAN
FORUM FOR
ARCHITECTURAL
POLICIES**

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A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1995 – 2004

1995

Brussels – Publication of the White Book “Europe and Architecture Tomorrow”. Proposals for the development of building in Europe by the Architects’ Council of Europe.

June 1997

Rotterdam – NAI. Nederlands Architectuurinstituut. International conference on the theme of “Architectural Policies in Europe”.

June 1999

Beijing – Congress of the International Union of Architects. Themes: sustainable development and the place of culture in negotiations with the World Trade Organisation.

EUROPEAN MEETINGS ON ARCHITECTURE

Finnish Presidency

23-24 September 1999

Paris – Institut du Monde Arabe – “European Meeting on Architecture 1999”, organised jointly by France and the Finnish Presidency. A meeting of the 15 member States and Norway represented by administrative bodies in charge of architecture and professional organisations.

The objectives:

- To bring together pertinent approaches capable of assuring quality architecture and a quality environment for citizens
- To create a consultative body at European level and ensure durable cooperation between the Fifteen.
- To ensure that the quality of architecture be taken into account in the different programmes and facets of European community policies
- To set up a network to spread architectural culture.

23 November 1999

The Finnish Presidency presents the Council of Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual Affairs with the Conclusions of the European Meeting on Architecture of September 1999, which include nine recommendations and propositions:

1. To formulate proposals with the aim of strengthening the principles governing the spatial development of space, with the aim of ensuring their durability in the framework of national and European programmes concerning the environment, the development of land and the design of infrastructure.
2. To establish a European network for the diffusion of architectural culture, to raise awareness among decision-makers and the general public, and to encourage public participation.
3. To raise awareness among the diverse actors in the construction industry, as well as developers and users, of the importance of architecture as a cultural responsibility.
4. To take steps to ensure participation by the public in decisions that affect their quality of life.
5. To establish up quality criteria in all public investment related to the development of the environment.
6. To strengthen cooperation between architects and other professionals involved in the development of urban and rural spaces.
7. To consider the services of architecture as intellectual services linked to creativity, which as such cannot solely be evaluated according to commercial criteria.
8. To use the knowledge of architects to the full wherever any form of development is required at any level.
9. To encourage cross-border exchanges, the mobility of architects in European and world markets, and consider that they have a beneficial effect on architectural quality.

An extract from the proposed Conclusions:

To create a FORUM, to be a permanent structure of cooperation between the States, to federate and encourage the putting into practice of these recommendations, and to develop and pursue shared goals in the realm of architectural quality.

The Portuguese Presidency

15-16 April 2000

Porto – In its conclusions, an informal meeting of Ministers of the Environment underlines the importance of the quality of built space.

4 May 2000

Paris – Hôtel de Vigny. The steering Committee for the preparation of the Forum, organised by the French ministry for Culture and Communication.

20 June 2000

Lisbon – Instituto Português do Património Arquitectónico. Steering Committee to prepare the Forum, organised by the Portuguese ministry for Culture and the Order of Portuguese Architects.

EUROPEAN FORUM ON ARCHITECTURAL POLICIES

French Presidency

10 and 11 July 2000

Paris – Centre Français du Commerce Extérieur. The first European Forum on Architectural Policies, organised by the French Presidency (Ministry of Culture and Communication).

More than 150 people attended the event, representing ministries in charge of architecture, professional and cultural organisations from the 15 member States, European Associations and members of the Commission and of the Parliament. A synthesis of the proposals was made at the close of the session by Catherine Tasca, the minister for Culture and Communication.

The exchanges focussed notably on:

- Examples of national programmes that favoured architecture.
- An analysis of the extent to which architecture is taken into account in European policies and the opportunities (?) for change.
- A proposal for a new policy for architecture and heritage in Europe.
- The question of competitions and possible new steps that could be collectively taken at a European level
- Services directive 92/50 and the possibility of renegotiation with a view to improving market procedures and ensuring that more attention be paid to quality. A project to insert a preamble stressing the cultural character of architecture.

Concrete proposals issued by the Forum:

- A project for a three-year cooperation agreement (the GAUDI project), under the auspices of the Culture 2000 programme, whose aim would be to bring together the actions of several cultural institutions in Europe's major cities.
- A project for a European Festival of Architecture, a popular event allowing the organisation of a series of simultaneous activities in different European countries.
- The creation of a website (www.architecture-forum.net), to function as the Forum's virtual secretariat, and eventually become a federating site at a European level.
- The constitution of four work groups (the creation of public bodies; architectural quality; the exercise of the profession of architect; dissemination, production of texts, communication and training).
- The project for a Resolution on architectural quality in the urban and rural environment, discussed and amended during sessions of the Forum.

12 July 2000

Paris – An enlarged Forum Steering Committee, organised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

13 November 2000

Rome – An enlarged Steering Committee meeting, a "mini-forum" in the presence of delegates from 11 European Member States. Considerable impact on the media, serious political and professional engagements (presence of three ministers). Organised by the National Council of Italian Architects.

23 November 2000

Brussels – The Resolution on architectural quality in urban and rural environments, proposed by the French Presidency, is adopted by the Council of Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual Affairs.

The Resolution affirms that architecture is a fundamental feature of the history, culture and fabric of life of each European country, and that it is an essential means of artistic expression in the daily life of citizens and constitutes the heritage of tomorrow.

The Resolution encourages member States:

- To intensify their efforts to improve knowledge about and promotion of architecture for both citizens and decision-makers.
- To promote architectural quality by means of exemplary public buildings policies.
- To foster the exchange of information and experience in the field of architecture.

The Resolution invites the Commission:

- To ensure that architectural quality and the specific nature of architectural service be taken into consideration in all its policies, actions and programmes, in particular by means of Structural Funds.
- To facilitate cooperation and networking between institutions devoted to upgrading cultural heritage and architecture, and to support the organisation of European-scale events.
- To encourage the training and the mobility of students and professionals.

The Swedish Presidency

12 February 2001

Brussels – the definitive adoption of the Resolution by the European Council (Official Journal of the European Communities, 6.3.2001. 2001/C73/04)

14 May 2001

Stockholm – Forum Steering Committee organised by the Swedish Ministry of Culture.

15-16 May 2001

Stockholm – Swedish Museum of Architecture – European seminar in the framework of the Forum on the theme of “Children, Identity, Architecture” organised by the Swedish Presidency (Ministry of Culture, Swedish Museum of Architecture, National Association of Swedish Architects).

30 May 2001:

Brussels – Launch of the European Parliamentary Urban Policy Working Group.

The Belgian Presidency

9 October 2001

Brussels – Informal Council of ministers in charge of urban policies salutes the adoption of the resolution on architectural quality and the creation of a European Parliamentary Urban Policy Working Group.

23 November 2001

Grand-Hornu – Enlarged Steering Committee of the Forum at Mons. Organised by the French Community of Belgium, under the aegis of the Belgian Presidency, in the presence of Culture Minister Rudy Demotte.

14 December 2001

Rome – National Council of Italian Architects – Launch of the third working party on “The Exercise of the Profession of Architect” in the framework of the Forum.

The Spanish Presidency

14 January 2002

Paris – French Architectural Institute – first coordination meeting of the GAUDI network of cultural institutions (Governance, Architecture and Urbanism as Democratic Interaction). The cooperation accord was retained as part of the Culture 2000 programme.

17-21 February 2002

Antwerp – European Seminar for young architects, in the framework of the Forum, organised by the Flemish Community of Belgium, the Ministry of the Walloon Region (a continuation of the Belgian Presidency).

18 March 2002

Paris – French Architectural Institute. Second coordination meeting of the GAUDI network of cultural institutions.

20 May 2002

Helsinki – House of the Estates, an informal meeting of the Forum: “Three Years on from Paris”, organised by the Ministry of Education, and the Association of Finnish Architects.

21-22 May 2002

Helsinki – House of the Estates, European seminar in the framework of the Forum, on the theme “Discussing Architectural Quality”. Ministry of Education, Association of Finnish Architects, Alvar Aalto Academy.

13 June 2002

Brussels – Architects’ Council of Europe, meeting of the coordination group of the Forum.

16-17 June 2002

London – Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, Architecture Foundation, third meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions, and first test meeting of the Club of European Leaders committed to Architecture.

Danish Presidency

22 September 2002

Vienna – Arkitekturzentrum. Fourth meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

27 November 2002

Paris – CNIT Paris-La Défense. Meeting of the coordination group of the Forum and dinner meeting with the director of architecture and heritage.

27-28 November 2002

Paris – CNIT Paris-La Défense. Meetings on Architecture on the theme of “Architectural Quality in Europe. Procurement Practices”, organised by architecture and heritage section of the Ministry for Culture and Communication. Forum members participate in the discussions.

Greek Presidency

9 January 2003

Brussels – Architects’ Council of Europe. Meeting of the coordination group of the Forum.

10-11 January 2003

Brussels – Fifth meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

28-29 March 2003

Brussels – Sixth meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

Italian Presidency

24 July 2003

Barcelona – Seventh meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

24 September 2003

Brussels – Architects’ Council of Europe. Meeting of the Forum coordination group.

31 October 2003

Bari – Second meeting of the Club of European Leaders committed to Architecture proposed in the framework of the VIth National Congress of Italian Architects and the eighth meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

Participants in the Steering Committee of the Forum are invited to attend the presentations.

01 November 2003

Bari – Steering Committee of the Forum organised by the National Council of Italian Architects in the framework of their VIth National Congress, under the aegis of the Italian Presidency.

21-23 November 2003

Bologna – European seminar “The Quality of Contemporary Architecture in Cities and European Territories” in the framework of the Forum. Italian ministry for Cultural Goods and Activities, DG Architecture and Contemporary Art.

Irish Presidency

20 January 2004

Brussels – Architects’ Council of Europe. Meeting of the Forum coordination group.

19-20 March 2004

Paris – Ninth meeting of the GAUDI coordination network for cultural institutions.

15 April 2004

Dublin – Enlarged Steering Committee of the Forum. Department of Heritage, Environment and Local Government, Office of Public Works, the Arts Council, the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.

16 April 2004

Dublin – European Conference, in the framework of the Forum, on the theme “Architectural Policy and the Achievement of Quality in the Built Environment”. Department of Heritage, Environment and Local Government, Office of Public Works, the Arts Council, the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.

Dutch Presidency

30 September 2004

Barcelona – Third meeting of the Club of European Leaders committed to Architecture, in the framework of the GAUDI network of cultural institutions.

15-17 October 2004

First edition of the European Festival of Architecture in several European cities, at the initiative of the GAUDI network of cultural institutions.