



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate C - Transparency, Efficiency & Resources  
SG.C.1 - Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents

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SG.C.1/

## EUROPEAN ARCHIVES GROUP STOCKHOLM, 25 MAY 2023

### CONCLUSIONS

#### 1. Opening and announcements

- Maria Oliván Avilés sent her regrets that she was not able to attend the meeting.
- The following members participated for the first time:
  - Inga Zakšauskienė, Chief Archivist of Lithuania
  - Cristiane Casaca, Deputy Director-General of the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo
  - Dino Cutura, Director of the Croatian State Archives
  - Constantin Stancu (European Commission)

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

AOB: The Commission will provide a short report on eArchiving.

The agenda was adopted with further changes.

#### 3. Strategy discussion

The morning session was devoted to the strategy discussion that was started at the Oslo meeting. The aim of the discussion is to

- (1) **focus the work** of the EAG on issues that are most relevant to the Archives and the Commission/EU in the next few years;
- (2) **increase the impact of EAG**, both with respect to the work of National Archives themselves and their influence in Brussels, e.g. with respect to legislation that affects Archives or participation in EU programmes;
- (3) **the way we work**: organise interactive sessions to promote more in-depth discussions and a renewed way of contributing to the group.

On the basis of the priority issues for the future agenda of the EAG defined at the previous meeting, the preparatory group proposed two [themes for the discussion in Stockholm](#):

Legislation that affects archives at both the EU and national levels, including how to manage archives in compliance with the GDPR, EU legislation that impacts archives and monitoring national legislation in the Member States about archives from a comparative perspective. It was suggested to create a subgroup for (EU) legislation.

Drafting a new report on archives. The previous report ‘Archives in the enlarged European Union’ in 2005 had led to a Council Recommendation with actions that have long been completed and it was thought that a new report could serve to define the current challenges and issue that archives face.

After discussion of the two themes in in small groups of 6 people, the meeting agreed to produce a strategic plan for the EAG:

- the result should define the strategic direction for EAG for the next 5 years
- start with developing a strategic outline with the themes and strategy for the Madrid meeting
- the purpose is to show the relevance of the EAG for the European Commission and establish its value as an advisory group;
- another purpose is to leverage discussions at home
- focus should be on EU relevance / challenges / issues at EU level
- legislative issues should, as discussed in Stockholm, be included in this work; a legislative subgroup could then be established (or not) as a follow-up action in Madrid.

There was also the suggestion to start with a survey to identify important themes, major challenges in each country and common challenges in Europe.

An outline of the strategic plan will be prepared for the Madrid meeting by a working group with the following participants:

- Afelonne Doek (NL)
- Karin Astrom Iko (SE)
- Zoltán Szatucsek (HU)
- Cristian Anita (RO)
- Thomas Just (AU)
- Inga Zaksauskiene (LT)
- Hrefna Róbertsdóttir (IS)

Other member of the EAG are welcome to join

All meetings of the group will take place online at the following times:

- 30 June, 10:30 – 12:00
- 18 July, 12:00 – 13:00
- 29 August, 10:30 – 12:00
- 19 September, 14:00 – 15:30

See also the notes on the discussion [here](#).

#### **4. European Collaborative Cloud for European Heritage**

This initiative for a [digital infrastructure](#) that will connect cultural heritage institutions and research organisations across the EU is supported by the Commission Directorate-

General for Research and Innovation (RTD), through the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme. The purpose of the presentation was for the Commission (RTD) and the members of the EAG to have a better mutual understanding of the initiative and its possible usefulness for the archives sector.

## **5. Archiving-by-design**

The chair of the subgroup [updated](#) the meeting on the work of the subgroup.

The white paper had been circulated to the members of the EAG in the months preceding the meeting and a webinar was organized to explain its contents. The last version of the paper takes account of the comments received.

The **EAG endorsed the white paper** as an EAG product.

Espen Sjøvoll announced that he would be leaving the Norwegian National Archives in the summer and was therefore also resigning as chair of the subgroup. The chair thanked him on behalf of the EAG for his invaluable contribution to the work of the subgroup and the EAG.

The new chair of the Archiving-by-Design subgroup of the EAG is Antal Posthuma of the National Archives of the Netherlands.

## **6. Archives portal**

Zoltán Szatuscek gave an [update](#) on behalf of the Archives Portal Europe Foundation. The presentation underlined the large amount of objects that the portal has been able to make available online with very limited resources. He pointed out that the portal nevertheless has difficulty in finding the necessary support and funding to continue its activities and concluded that a stronger commitment is needed for the work of the portal from both its partners and the Commission.

## **7. AOB**

The chair reported that a new contract had been signed with the eArk consortium to continue the provided a brief report on the eArchiving. The first months of the project focussed on developing the infrastructure (project management systems, support desk, event management etc.). The first major events have taken place and contact has been re-established with the eArchiving Building Block user community. The consortium reports real progress with the Engineering 3D Content Information Type Specification (CITS). Links to news and events can be found on the [website](#).

## **8. Next EAG meeting**

Cristina Diaz presented a short film and explanation about the [next meeting](#) of the EAG and EBNA which will take place in Madrid on 5 and 6 October respectively.