

## **Update No. 34**

**December 2018**

### **Good wishes on the threshold of the anniversary year 2019 !**

The year behind us has brought much to the museum and tourist rail world. A lot was commemorated. Sometimes we celebrated 25 and 50 year anniversaries. Also, after - sometimes complicated or lengthy - restoration and new construction projects, the goals achieved at commissioning received the well-deserved attention. In the Alsace, on the border between France and Germany, the fact was commemorated of the century of the armistice of 11 November 1918, with the First World War came to an end.

It is a privilege to be invited to many of these festivities as President of FEDECRAIL. Within the limits of what is possible, I will try to give this as much attention as possible.

In the past year it also became clear that several interesting projects were threatened. Where members asked for help, we have tried to give it by sending letters to involved parties, for example in Austria, Germany, Ukraine and the Isle of Man. A successful outcome is not always guaranteed or is not yet clear. But it has also become clear that if we can use our influence working closely together with the members involved, the chances of success will clearly increase.

In 2018, we also lost many of our colleagues, who often spent a whole life preserving, managing, presenting, operating and educating about rail history and the associated organisations. They will be missed reluctantly in many places.

In April 2018 many members met in Edinburgh for the yearly FEDECRAIL conference, the Annual General Meeting and the study tours through Scotland.

In 2018 the United Kingdom and Europe prepared themselves for the upcoming BREXIT in 2019. At the time of writing, little is known about the actual outcome, but we understand from HRA that they will remain active members of FEDECRAIL, whatever the outcome will be.

We worked hard on many fronts. Sometimes not just visible, but both within our organisation and with the outside world relevant to us, we are active in order to achieve the best possible chance of continuity for our members. Internally we worked on a business plan 2018 - 2020 and on the annual plan 2019, both based on the Strategic Plan (approved by the members in Antwerp in 2017). We discussed the new developments and the associated budgets with the members at an extraordinary General Meeting in Luxembourg. This meeting has been held to improve the process of informing and discussing our plans with the members. Formal decisions will be taken at the 2019 AGM.

Much time was spent within the HOG (Heritage Operations Group) in preparation for and attending meetings within ERA, on our vision on matters such as European train drivers directive, fleet management or ETCS and ERTMS. Often complicated issues, both in a technical, but certainly also in



a political administrative sense.

In 2018, we continued to work energetically on the development of the Tramway Group. Although the activities in this area do not seem to be influenced so directly at European level, it can be concluded that the conservation problems of historical tram equipment and continued operation on public city tram networks throughout Europe can be threatened political changes .

The integration of our historical rail operation into the Paris environmental agreements will certainly require a great deal of attention in 2019, Also raising awareness and support for our movement during the European elections will have to be vigorously pursued by all of us.

In addition to continuing these activities, we will also be celebrating our 25th anniversary in April 2019. Especially for this purpose we will make a series of jubilee newsletters in addition to this, our existing "UPDATE" newsletter. But also at this point I warmly invite you to put Tuesday April 16, 2019 firmly in your diary to celebrate the founding moment 25 years ago, together. Please write Wernigerode - Brocken, because that's the place to be where we will hold our annual conference, Annual General Meeting and study programme from April 12<sup>th</sup> until April 17<sup>th</sup> .

Before that, I wish you and your family all the best for a beautiful Christmas and a healthy and successful 2019.

*Jaap Nieweg, President FEDECRAIL*

### **An Extraordinary Meeting with FEDECRAIL members.**

On Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Extraordinary General Meeting was held in Hotel Gulliver in Bascharage, Luxemburg. 22 Councilmembers, officers and members were discussing about:

- The strengthening of the relationship between FEDECRAIL and their members vice versa . Part of this discussion was how to improve the contact with the active workers of the adherents. Members told how it was in their situation, that leaves the conclusion that in many cases there were many ways to do so. In the policy paper for communication now under construction , there will be given extra attention to this most needed improvement. This draft of this policy paper should see light end of January 2019, when it will be discussed in the council, before sending it to the members to be discussed in the 2019 AGM on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Wernigerode.
- The council presented the Business plan 2018 – 2020. This draft is meant as instrument to execute this part of the Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022. Main discussion points:
  - The Development of a policy paper about Human Resource management and especially pointed on young people. Reaction was, not only on young people but also on 50 + and people in general. We need them all.
  - We discussed about how to develop the FEDECRAIL youth exchange after 2019 (Spain). One idea is to develop the FEDECRAIL as been done in the last 10 years. The other idea is, that FEDECRAIL stimulates and promotes Youth activities like the exchanges on more places, so that people can choose and that more youngsters can take part. For example: Sweden has every year a youth camp, Belgium (Maldegem) is doing things like this and very successful as stated. We will bring the discussion further, however in the FEDECRAIL council seems the first idea, developing as we have always done, most popular.

- There should be a more prominent place for the visitor in the way of thinking and acting of FEDECRAIL, because this is of great (or even greater) importance for all the members. About this subject John Fuller, David Morgan and Jacques Daffis informed those present, about the progress (yes/no) being made in the UIC Toprail project.
- About sharing knowledge we discussed about who's task this should. Some thought that it should be done on National level and not at European level. On the other hand everybody agreed that if there are possibilities to do so with an existing Party, p.e. the BesTT programme from GB bringing to Europe. Why not?
- Further we were discussing about forming working groups and task forces and especially how to staff them. President promised to come back to the members on this theme. More people should be involved (read recruited) otherwise many of our mutual goals will not be realistic.
- The council presented the first draft of the yearplan 2019, main subjects:
  - Jubilee year
  - Starting urgently with collecting statistic data (might be run by the youngsters group, or at least together with them).
  - Policy paper communication
  - Connections with EU – European elections – new Parliament – New Commission
  - Urgent start with executing Plan Paris
  - Financing
- First Draft budgets for 2019. Presentation by the treasurer. How to finance the new ways we need to act to execute the strategic -, the business - and the year plan and that for the longer term. It will be important to look for external funds. (task taken up by the president). Members are saying, that they still have to pay every year more, in contrary with the strategic plan, where it is stated that we shall not raise the membership fee. They want to make clear that it can't be the case that the raise is more than the inflation.
- Especially the Dutch wanted to make clear that much of the meetings could be done as web-conferences, which should make the household of the FEDECRAIL council as well of the members less expensive in money and time. The council will think about this. They want to use web-conferences foremost to accelerate the developments of projects. The general idea of face to face meetings may be seen out fashioned by younger people, but in the council the idea to do important meetings as face to face execution has still the preference.

The General idea about this extraordinary meeting was positive.

*Jaap Nieweg, President FEDECRAIL*

## **SPECIAL JUBILEE CONFERENCE 2019 - 25 YEARS of FEDECRAIL**

**Friday 12.04.19 - Wednesday 17.04.19**

2019 will be a very special year for Fedecrail marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Federation on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1994 in Belgium. Each year since 1994 Fedecrail has organised a combined conference and visit programme to member railways, tramways and museums in a different country annually in collaboration with one of our national “umbrella organisation” members.

Our Jubilee Conference 2019 will be held in collaboration with VDMT Verband Deutscher Museums und Touristikbahnen at Wernigerode in the Harz Mountains of Germany. This is the home of perhaps the last daily normal service steam train operation in Europe, HSB Harzer Schmalspur Bahnen who will



be our local hosts.

Our programme will feature a Business Conference (Mon 15.04) with a wide range of speakers and other elements; General Assembly (Sun 14.04); sessions of our specialist Working Groups (Fri 12.04) and of course useful study visits (Sat 12.04 - Wed 17.04) to see how heritage railways, tramways, museums are flourishing in this part of Germany. Our “Jubilee Day” Tue 16.04 will be marked by a special HSB steam train to see the dawn rise on the summit of the Brocken Mountain.

This year we will be offering a wide range of ‘Flexi Options’ for participation, ranging from just a single day to the full programme - aiming to match participation to both budgets and diary pressures of potential delegates. A special invitation is extended to younger active members of rail and tram heritage organisations for whom a number of places will be available at special discount prices.

A series of special *Jubilee Newsletters* will be published over the five months leading up to the conference date giving latest news on the conference business, visits programme, booking arrangements and other useful information. Each *Jubilee Newsletter* will be placed on this section of the website and information will also be available from the conference team at: [conference@fedecrail.org](mailto:conference@fedecrail.org)

We are hoping that colleagues actively involved in railway and tramway heritage throughout Europe (and beyond!) will join us for this major celebration event.

*Peter Ovenstone Conference Organiser*

## **SWEDEN FEDECRAIL YOUTH EXCHANGE 2018**

*Mark Adamson*

Picture: the Fedecrail Youth Exchange 2018 at Sveriges Järnvägsmuseum in Gävle just after a trip in a Heritage Railcar. The event started with the group meeting at Uppsala Östra station building, a bit nervous as I had no clue who I would be meeting or what the overall experience would be like. I was greeted by three other Brits, two Catalonians, one Romanian, three Germans and six Ukrainians and the Swedish hosts and almost immediately thought to myself this may well be the best experience of my life so far. Being able to share pictures, videos and stories with other people my age from different countries and sharing and hearing the experiences of young people and the railways they operate in their country and put blood, sweat and tears into, and on top of that witness first hand and get my hands dirty on another Countries Heritage Network. I couldn't wait to begin.

The Fedecrail Youth Exchange started at the Uppsala-Lennakatten Railway which runs a 3 Swedish foot Narrow-gauge operated by the SRJmf Society. The railway allowed us to partake in activities such as restoring a Diesel Railcar, cosmetically restoring an old Station, on-board Conducting and Steam Locomotive Maintenance. The journey on the train and behind the scenes really allowed us to see how the railway is operated and what the railway means to both Volunteers and Passengers, we saw how they attract business and were amazed by its wonderful scenery. The accommodation was in Fjällnora was spectacular as it was linked by Bus to the Railway by the Tram Society, the food was great and made a

the Fedecrail Youth Exchange 2018 at Sveriges Järnvägsmuseum in Gävle just after a trip in



a Heritage Railcar.

great place for everyone to interact during free time and learn about Sweden and the railways and Tramways of old and new. It was also incredible to see 3ft Locomotives run at 50kmh as the Line is limited to.

On the other days we saw Krylbo Roundhouse Depot, Gävle Järnvägsmuseum (Swedish National Railway Museum), Mariefred Narrow-gauge Railway and Oxelösund Roundhouse Depot to see how the historical Locomotives and Rolling Stock are preserved and operated to private and main-line use. There are very few examples of this sort of thing in the UK especially being allowed onto the mainline with a Railcar from a Museum site to the reserve building on the other side on the Main Station.

On the Tuesday, the Swedish Tramway Society of Malmköping treated us to a tour of Stockholm on a vintage Buffet Tram which was serving rather fittingly Swedish Meatballs whilst sightseeing on what is probably the best tour of any City I have ever experienced, then followed by a look around the Tram Depot afterwards, (British Tramways could learn something from Sweden I think). As part of the trip we were also treated to a cultural trip of Femöre Cold War bunker which has been turned into its

own museum which was extremely interesting to visit. Looking at it I can't really think of getting anything like either experience in Scotland, rules and regulations are far more relaxed which actually allows people to experience these amazing places and activities.

At last, my personal highlight of the trip was the few days spent at Malmköping Museispårvägen, Home of the Swedish Tramway Society and Bus Museum. Whilst here, we were cutting back vegetation from behind the old Railway Shed, cosmetically and mechanically restoring Tram Cars, learning how to become Tram Conductors and on the last day getting to drive the Tram. The reason it has to be my favourite part of the trip was that I had never experienced operating or having the opportunity of even going to a Tramway with such great scenery, people, facilities and such a huge collection like this before, I probably wouldn't ever be able to have the same opportunity to do so in the UK, it was incredible to be able to see how the Tramway has operated, the history of it all and how they preserve and run old Tramcars and the Line as a whole. I would definitely say that my first Fedecrail Youth Exchange was an experience I shall never forget as long as I live. It's a chance to see railways on the continent, witness how they are run in comparison to ours, meet people from other countries that share a passion for railways within your age group and an opportunity to learn plenty of new skills and experience new activities. I would definitely like to go next year and every other year that I could. It is without a doubt the greatest experience I could ask for.



**Photos from left to right: the team scraping and painting the wooden building at Marielund Station on the Lennakatten Railway (photo by Tim Parsons). Re-varnishing the wooden frames of Heritage Tramcar Stockholm no. 143. And Myself driving "Ängbyvagn" SL 302 Tram at Hosjö.**

# CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

## PREAMBLE

The 2018 [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) marks a turning point for Europe's ever-growing movement for cultural heritage. We must build on this momentum to recognize and unfold the positive and cohesive power of our shared cultural heritage and values to connect Europe's citizens and communities and to give a deeper meaning to the entire European project. The time for action is now.

This "Berlin Call to Action" is presented at the [European Cultural Heritage Summit](#) on 22 June 2018 in Berlin by the 3 co-hosting organisations, namely [EUROPA NOSTRA](#) – the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe; the German Cultural Heritage Committee ([DNK](#)) acting as national coordinator of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in Germany and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation ([SPK](#)) based in Berlin.

In the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH), the first European Cultural Heritage Summit held from 18-24 June 2018 in Berlin brought together numerous citizens and organisations from across Europe. Among them were representatives of institutions, associations, foundations and universities as well as of religious communities and sites, all dealing with cultural heritage; architects, museum professionals, conservators-restorers, craft en, artists, private owners of historic houses and heritage sites, researchers and teachers; representatives of public authorities or financial institutions; entrepreneurs, start-ups, (art)historians, journalists, photographers, students and young volunteers; together with Ministers of Culture, Mayors of historic cities, members of European, national and regional parliaments, representatives of European Union institutions, as well as of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ICCROM and many European heritage networks.

This "Berlin Call to Action" draws its inspiration and legitimacy from the expertise, enthusiasm and engagement of all those women and men who care for cultural heritage (tangible, intangible and digital) and who dedicate their expertise, time and energy, as professionals or volunteers, to ensure the transmission of this heritage to future generations. The economic value of their work is significant; its social and cultural value is priceless.

The "Berlin Call to Action" also builds on the input and support of the [EYCH national coordinators](#), members of the [EYCH Stakeholders Committee](#), as well as of members of the [European Heritage Alliance 3.3](#).

We now invite all those who care for Europe's past, present and future to sign, support and widely share this Berlin Call to Action.

## THE BERLIN CALL TO ACTION

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS, ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS... stand ready to take up

our shared responsibility to unfold the cohesive power and potential of our shared cultural heritage to advance a more peaceful, prosperous, inclusive and just Europe.

Today, in this European Year of Cultural Heritage, we have a unique opportunity to influence the debate on the Future of Europe. Confronted with so many challenges, and even threats, to core European values, this debate cannot be based exclusively on political, economic or security considerations. We must “change the tone” of the narrative about Europe. We must put our shared cultural heritage where it belongs: at the very centre of Europe’s policies and priorities.

#### WHY? BECAUSE...

1. Our cultural heritage is what makes us European as it reflects our varying and shared values, cultures and memories. Therefore, it is the true embodiment of Europe’s “Unity in Diversity” and it helps us resist divisive forces which are a danger to our society.
2. Our cultural heritage captures the multiple layers of our identity – local, regional, national, and European; these layers are all interconnected and reinforce each other and they are continuously evolving;
3. Our cultural heritage feeds both our sense of belonging to a local community and the sense of togetherness and solidarity in Europe;
4. Our cultural heritage connects generations as it reflects cross-fertilisations and cross-border movements of people and ideas over many centuries of shared history. As such, it is the basis for a respectful and enriching dialogue and interaction within and between communities in Europe but also with other cultures of the world;
5. Our cultural heritage ensures a bridge between our past and our future. It allows us to draw from, and build on, our cultural traditions and history, while it also helps us to heal wounds and mend the fractures of the past. It simultaneously inspires on-going creativity and innovation. As such, it is a source of continuous learning and inspiration and a basis for active and responsible citizenship;
6. Our cultural heritage is also a key driver for sustainable development and enhanced social cohesion, as well as the source of a large number of rewarding jobs both directly and indirectly;
7. Our cultural heritage brings harmony and beauty to our living environment, both man-made and natural, and thus improves our wellbeing and quality of life.
8. "The *Berlin Call to Action* was supported by the Fedecrail delegates at this year's Europa Nostra Congress in Berlin and was later signed formally for Fedecrail by Jaap Nieweg as our President. It has already been used as a useful lobbying tool by Europa Nostra and other organisations. Europa Nostra are encouraging all types of heritage organisations across Europe to add their signatures to express support.
9. The target was set of gaining more than 2,000 signatures by the end of the year and this has already been reached by November. The full text of the *Call to Action* document can be downloaded for signature on the Europa Nostra website [www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org) Fedecrail member organisations are also very welcome to sign to record their support for this awareness raising campaign."

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Peter Ovenstone

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