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**Some conclusive important remarks emerged and approved by participants to the  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Hazards & modern Heritage International Conference, Rhodes 2002**

**I)**

The most crucial points specifically concerning cultural heritage risk management relate to:

- The priorities facing those responsible for managing different types of heritage and their perception and knowledge of the risks that their sector faces and their causes.
- Heritage risk assessment and remedial measures evaluation from a scientific perspective.
- The provision of means and practices that will help set priorities within the sector, obtain sufficient resources for this sector, and enable the taking of optimal local and strategic management decisions.
- A new attitude of heritage research experts and end users to keep the special needs of heritage management at the forefront of the evaluation of potential risk assessment.

Risk management solutions must be adopted on the base of their suitability for sustainable preservation of heritage rather than be imposed by theories embraced on an *ad hoc* basis from other disciplines. This will be best achieved by a multidisciplinary approach, which includes social and natural

science and economic and legal perspectives; also, it must be led and co-ordinated by involving stakeholders, including their professional groupings. Such approach, if successful, will set the norms for best practice, legal precedent and insurance evaluation for heritage.

Perhaps international guidelines and policies should be established that could even prosecute individuals or groups that disregard the norms for best practice and policies.

The scientific responsibility of a restoration project cannot do without a specialist historic knowledge of the artefact, of its author, of its cultural and geographical context, of the relevant material conditions under which it was produced.

In a building inevitably destined to undergo changes, it is only with this specialised historic knowledge that one can establish the limits within which alterations to parts considered intangible are allowed.

In situations of limited complexity the constitution of databanks can be determining, as they can make available to the administration responsible for the safeguard of the heritage a reliable instrument for addressing the work of the single designer, architect or engineer as it be.

Educational programs to increase awareness of owners on possible cultural/historical values of buildings must be established.

## II)

The history of civilizations has always been marked by an exchange of cultures, art forms, styles and technologies. The concept of “shared heritage” defines this synthesis: the Greek architecture exported to Magna Grecia in Italy evolved into other forms in the roman world. The passage of civilizations in the Mediterranean sedimented experiences and styles that form a unique and composite urban landscape.

Cultural heritage should not be demolished simply because of change of regime. The value of cultural heritage should be interpreted in a wider context independently of its political/emotional considerations. That is to say, within the context of European culture and even to whole mankind.

The cultural diversity of a city – formed throughout history – is its major asset: a historic city is by definition the product of different periods and civilizations. Therefore the enhancement, through proper maintenance and restoration policies, of this diversity is an essential element of urban management. These policies need to be defined with the local community, in order to motivate the citizens and share the vision with them.

## III)

The “shared heritage of the Italian period (33 years) in Rhodes – as well as the French architecture in North Africa or the British Architecture in India – is part of a long history of exchanges.

The geographic position of the Dodecanese in the Mediterranean area held and still maintains the function of a crossroads of cultures, between East and West, North and South. The future enlargement of the European union shall enhance and strengthen this function in a new role of “transborde” entity.

The stratification of 25 centuries of history left clearly identifiable testimonies; this peculiarity implies the research of solutions ensuring the “diffused recovery” of shared heritage.

Furthermore, in the specific case of the Dodecanese, the current logic of the intervention's financial return in terms of the population/benefit ratio must be re-examined, taking into consideration new, diversified potential beneficiaries in addition to present-day residents and tourist flows.

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