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CULTURELS



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Luxembourg, 20 May 2013

Dear Manager of the Via Francigena,

At its meeting of 12 April, the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) discussed the evaluation of your route, examining the reports of the Institute and of the designated independent expert, as well as the positive recommendation of the EPA Bureau following its meeting on 22 February.

It is my pleasure to inform you on behalf of the Chair that the Governing Board agreed with the Bureau's recommendation and decided to confirm the certification of the Via Francigena for the coming three years.

The decisions were as follows:

"The Governing Board:

[...]

*Concerning the 2012-2013 evaluation cycle*

- took note of the recommendations of the Bureau with respect to the 7 routes and 3 new proposals examined in the 2011-2012 evaluation cycle, and in the light of the oral presentations of candidates for certification;
- concerning the *Ways of Saint James of Compostela*, the *Hansa Route*, the *Route of Saint Martin of Tours*, the *Route of El legado andalusi* and the *Phoenicians' route* (re-evaluation after one year), welcomed the progress made by these routes in one year to achieve conformity with Resolution CM/Res(2010)52 and confirmed their certification for a new period of three years;
- concerning the *Iter Vitis* route and the *Via Francigena* (regular three-year evaluation), decided to confirm the certification of these routes for a further three-year period;
- concerning the routes *In the footsteps of the Huguenots and Waldeser* and the *European Route of Megaliths* (candidates for certification), Decided to award certification to these routes and congratulated them on joining the programme;
- decided to communicate its decisions to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape in advance of its meeting on 27 May, for information and confirmation of the decisions concerning new certifications;
- Instructed the Executive Secretary to communicate its decisions to each routes concerned, informing them of any relevant recommendations and observations made with regard to the route by the Governing Board during discussions."

They will be submitted to the above meeting on 27 May, for confirmation.

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You have already received the very thorough independent expert's report appended to my letter of March, therefore I would like to renew the suggestion made by both the Bureau and the Governing Board that the members of the network take good note of the advice given therein to further develop and ensure its sustainability and conformity of the Via Francigena with the requirements of Resolution CM/Res(2010)52.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Denu', with a horizontal line extending to the left from the start of the signature.

Penelope Denu  
Executive Secretary, Council of Europe  
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes  
Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes

Mr Massimo Tedeschi  
President, European Association of the Via Francigena Ways