

# EUROPA NOSTRA INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING HERITAGE COMMITTEE

## MEETING AND VISITS IN BRUSSELS, GHENT AND ANTWERP

**30 Oct - 2 Nov 2014.**

(more on [http://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EN\\_140913\\_IEHC\\_BrusselsGhentAntwerp-Meeting-30-Oct-2-Nov.pdf](http://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EN_140913_IEHC_BrusselsGhentAntwerp-Meeting-30-Oct-2-Nov.pdf) )

Europa Nostra's Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee (IEHC) held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting since its creation in 2008, and for the second time in the Belgian capital, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Its host was Pierre Laconte, Chairman and co-founder of the IEHC. Working visits focused on transport and canals.

The formal meeting – held at the Art-deco Brussels Royal Yacht Club and attended by 7 of the 10 IEHC members – included as core-business the search for new EN members among Industry-related organisations and associations. The Committee gratefully took note of EN Board's decision to appoint IEHC's Secretary Rienko Wilton as member of the Advisory Panel of "The 7 Most Endangered" Program as from 2015. At to EN Awards, IEHC decided not only to scout for future awards but also to help developments related to past awards. To this effect it will look for possible private sponsoring to gather the 220.000 Euro needed to implement the full restoration of the "Exceptional Machines of Wielemans-Ceuppens Brewery" in Brussels, Grand-Prix Europa Nostra Award winner in 2013, category studies. The IEHC also confirmed its engagement in a research project on "Transnational" Industrial Heritage, i.e. to identify besides "Industrial Heritage located in Europe", "Industrial Heritage with a unique European specificity". As a first practical step three IEHC members volunteered to present papers on this issue during a special IEHC Session at the Lille Conference of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), to be hosted by IEHC member Paul Smith in September 2015. "Transnational" heritage was a core issue of the November Nara Conference on authenticity in Heritage conservation. It was attended by the Chairman, who will also present cases of "transnational" heritage at the Conference "Heritage counts – International conference on the economic, social, environmental and cultural impact of immovable heritage", to held at the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, in Louvain (Belgium), next February, and to be followed by a refereed publication.

Working visits included the booming Turn und Taxi Royal Docks in Brussels <http://www.tour-taxis.com> (EN Award) and some challenging industrial heritage sites: the historic Railway repair workshop, the industrial municipality of Molenbeek, the "La Fonderie" cultural center, the former Godin stove factory and the 1870 Slaughter House, inspired by Les Halles in Paris, now destroyed. A visit to the International Association of Public Transport headquarters' rich archives catered for members interested in rail. In Ghent, visits included old docks and industrial areas where outstanding cases of adaptive reuse are taking place, and in Antwerp they included the park replacing the former railway-sidings-area north of the EN Award winning Central station [www.parkspoornoord.com](http://www.parkspoornoord.com) .

The next IEHC meeting will take place in March 2015 in The Hague and will be hosted by Secretary Rienko Wilton.

**Photos:** 1.Lock on the Brussels Canal in Molenbeek; 2. IEHC visit at Molenbeek's Townhall. From left to right: Hildebrand de Boer, Chairman Pierre Laconte, Belgian expert, Mayor Françoise Schepmans, Secretary Rienko Wilton, David Morgan, Cyril Winskell and Paul Smith.



