

EN Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee met in Krems an der Donau

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Europa Nostra's Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee (IEHC) held its 19th meeting in Krems an der Donau (Austria) on 22-25 March 2018. The working visits focused on the themes: monitoring UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape Wachau, adaptive reuse of nuclear heritage, and modern day use of historic Danube Ferries and rail infrastructure. The gatherings were hosted by IEHC Member **Prof. Dr. Christian Hanus**, Dean of the Danube University Krems.



Mautner Bridge, near Krems an der Donau. Photo: Hildebrand de Boer.

At the first day Dr. Peter Strasser (Danube University) gave an introduction about the future of the Mautner Bridge, within the World Heritage Landscape Wachau. For purposes of increasing traffic, the bridge should be renewed, but at the same time this bridge is of high historical value. Parts of the bridge were destroyed during the last days of World War 2, and were soon after the Liberation of the Wachau repaired by Soviet Troups. The Danube University is asked by state parties to consider the best possible solutions. Afterwards a working visit was brought to the site of the bridge and also to the former Nuclear Power Plant at Zwentendorf. This piece of nuclear heritage was developed during the 1980's but because of solid opposition never came in use. The plant was sold for



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Zwentendorf, Nuclear Power Plant. Photo: Pierre Laconte.

purposes of Safety Training. It is still possible to get a comprehensive and fascinating insight in this particular kind of industrial plants.



Zwentendorf, Control Room Nuclear Power Plant. Photo: Hildebrand de Boer.

The formal meeting was held in the Danube University. The members of the Committee held an In Memoriam for colleague Angus Fowler (1946-2017) and honored his valuable contributions to the sake of cultural heritage in Europe.

Some main issues were the project for the Europa Nostra publication “Europe, The First Industrial Continent”, the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the 7 Most Endangered Programme, and industrial heritage connected with possible future Europa Nostra Rewards. Also the Committee was able to take a look at the Europa Nostra Archive which is in good care by the Danube University.

During the evening a meeting was organised with Europa Nostra Austria, with the inspiring title ‘Pleasure and Passion’.

The second day working visits were brought to the technical monuments in the Wachau Valley, especially the fascinating Danube Cable Ferries.

During the last day of the Committee Meeting the extensive historical railway system was visited, and the impressive Railway Museum in Sigmundsherberg, which is run by devoted citizens with a huge amount of hospitality that touched our greatfulness.

The next IEHC Meeting is planned to take place from 25-28 October in the Region of Barcelona, and will be hosted by committee member **Eusebi Casanelles**.



Danube Cable Ferry in the UNESCO World Heritage Wachau Valley. Foto: Hildebrand de Boer.