



THE EUROPEAN
ROUTE OF
HISTORIC
THERMAL
TOWNS

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Press Release

12nd September 2016

EHTTA presentation on European Thermal Heritage at EU Parliament in Strasbourg

The international non-profit association will introduce its latest project, “The Thermal Atlas”: a digital compendium of essential information concerning the historic thermal towns and mineral water towns of Europe

The key role that thermal towns should play in the construction of a European tourism destination committed with sustainable development, culture and well being will be discussed at the European Parliament in Strasbourg next 15th September. The European Association of Historic Thermal Towns is organizing a presentation hosted by **MEP Francisco Millán Mon, co-President of the European Parliament Intergroup “European Tourism Development, Cultural Heritage, Ways of St. James and other European Cultural Routes”, and MEP Silvia Costa, President of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education.**

This presentation will increase the visibility of an international network which has been working for understanding and safeguarding of European thermal heritage for almost seven years, and will be open to Members of EU Parliament, tourism stakeholders, researchers and journalists, as well as delegations from the EHTTA member cities. **Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes of Council of Europe, Mr. Stefano Dominioni**, will also take part, supporting a network which in 2010 was certified as Cultural Route by the Council of Europe.

EHTTA President, Giuseppe Bellandi, said: “Already boasting 40 members in 13 countries across Europe, our networks keeps gaining higher recognition at the European level and in terms of political representation on issues related to hydrotherapy. Now it's time to increase the cooperation with the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and ESPA, considering the core importance of European projects and EU Structural Fund 2014-2020 in our strategies”.

On the other hand, Member of European Parliament, Francisco Millán Mon, has highlighted the undeniable tourist and economic importance of the European Cultural Routes, adding how “citizens can find in the thermal route a tourist attraction of high cultural value, with an additional important component of health and well being”.



EHTTA delighted to present the Thermal Atlas Project

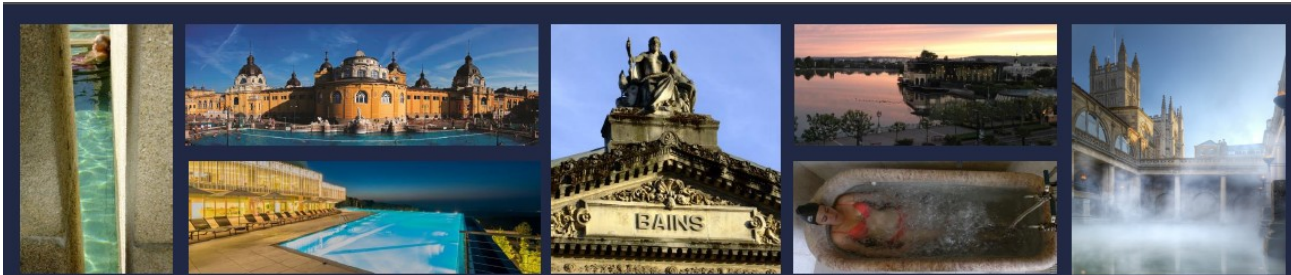
At the event, EHTTA will showcase the very first pilot of the **Thermal Atlas project**, an ambitious initiative for the study and dissemination of the Thermal Heritage of Europe. Lead by this association and developed by its Scientific Committee, the Thermal Atlas aims to become the most complete resource on thermalism in Europe, building an essential database on the natural, cultural and intangible resources that have made of thermal towns key actors in the history and identity of Europe, places devoted to well-being, health, culture, art and landscape.

Finally, this presentation will also be an opportunity to launch **EHTTA new brochure**, showing the versatility, creativity and aspirations of this international non-profit association. Communications Manager for EHTTA, Catherine Lloyd said, "We needed a new brochure to reflect the fact that EHTTA has grown from 26 members to nearly 40 members in the last three years, and to include our newest members. We wanted to go for a look which would really show off our towns – their history, architecture, culture and of course the thermal water sources themselves, and we feel that this brochure will be a fantastic advert for the Association and its members."



LIST OF CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

- MEP Francisco Millán Mon, Co-President of the Intergroup “European Tourism Development, Cultural Heritage, Ways of St. James and other European Cultural Routes”
- Mr. Giuseppe Bellandi, President of EHTTA and Mayor of Montecatini
- Mr. Mario Crecente, Vice – Chairman of EHTTA Scientific Committee
- MEP Silvia Costa, President of the Committee on Culture & Education of the European Parliament
- Mr. Stefano Dominioni, Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



#Takethewaters

The European Route of Historic Thermal Towns



Discover the European
Route of Thermal Heritage
Culture - Art - Architecture - History





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NOTE FOR EDITORS:

1. EHTTA is responsible for the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns. All members have a rich historic and cultural heritage and use their thermal mineral waters for health and well-being. EHTTA's mission is to enhance, protect, and promote thermalism in Europe.
2. The EHTTA was created in 2009 in Brussels, and soon after, in 2010, was designated as a **Cultural Route of the Council of Europe**, one of just 32 across Europe.
3. EHTTA has nearly 40 members in 13 countries such as **Vichy** (France), **Baden Baden** (Germany), **Bath** (United Kingdom), **Ourense** (Spain), **Montecatini Terme** (Italy) but also **Budapest** (Hungary), **Daruvar** (Croatia), **Caldas da Rainha** (Portugal) **Galaalti** (Azerbaijan), **Karlovy Vary region** (Czech Republic), **Bursa** (Turkey) and **Loutra Pozar** (Greece).
4. The aims of this European network are to obtain recognition for the innovative and cultural qualities of European spa towns at the European Union level, in order to develop a new plan for the tourist sector by encouraging cross-border tourism in the framework of "Destination Europe". EHTTA encourages the economic development of spa towns and the safeguarding of their cultural and built heritage through exchanges of experience and good practices at European level.
5. The Cultural Routes programme, launched by the Council of Europe in 1987, demonstrates in a visible way, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe represent a share cultural heritage. The Cultural Routes put into practice the fundamental values of Council of Europe: human rights, cultural democracy, cultural diversity and identity, dialogue, mutual exchange and enrichment across boundaries and centuries. As of 2016, there are 32 certified [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe](#).