

# JOINT DECLARATION

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This declaration addresses decision makers of the European Parliament, the European Commission, EC Directorates, national and regional authorities as well as the general public.

## PREAMBLE

The project “Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks – Climate Change, Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments” brings together 18 partners from 9 Baltic States: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus and Germany. Governmental and cultural heritage institutions, universities and educational institutions in the construction sector are involved.

**The urgent aim:** Historic buildings can contribute to climate change mitigation goals without losing their cultural value and identity due to the rehabilitation methods used. Regrettably, the past shows that the unreflected application of energy-saving methods and a lack of knowledge among all stakeholders provoke exactly the opposite. Yet it is wrong to exclude historic buildings from energy-efficient retrofitting. Indeed a modern standard including energy performance ensures the use and the preservation of our built heritage.

**The solution** to this conflict lies in adapting regulations as well as informing and educating all the participants in rehabilitation processes. Even though the situation differs from country to country and from region to region, the protection of the monuments in the Baltic Sea Region should ultimately be the common aim, not only to preserve the roots and the cultural identity but also due to their great economic importance. The joint experience and intensive research in this project show that appropriate methods to solve this conflict do exist. The challenge is to create the preconditions and the framework for their application.

## RECOMMENDATIONS<sup>1</sup>

- 1. The energy efficiency rehabilitation of a historic building shall be teamwork by all involved parties (conservator, energy expert, architect, engineers, craftsmen, owner, tenant, authorities). An iterative process is necessary to reach the combined goals for energy and building standards and heritage values.**
- 2. A specific energy analysis is an advantage for historic buildings. It shall always be conducted in the case of major rehabilitation.**
- 3. Climate change mitigation plans shall consider heritage issues, and energy efficiency matters shall be included in heritage conservation guidelines.**
- 4. Development plans and urban rehabilitation processes shall indicate energy-related provisions for historic buildings and areas. They offer the opportunity to plan energy efficiency measures in historic buildings in a wider context.**
- 5. Specific training for the experts working on the energy efficiency rehabilitation of historic buildings shall be a mandatory requirement. All energy efficiency measures shall be carried out by qualified persons only.**
- 6. Information centres shall be established and provide practical information for all stakeholders.**
- 7. Financial support programmes specially dedicated to energy efficiency of historic buildings shall be developed.**
- 8. Further research on energy efficiency measures in historic buildings shall be conducted.**

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<sup>1</sup> For more details please see the Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks Policy Paper and the Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks Report “Integration of climate protection and cultural heritage aspects in policy and development plans”.

## APPEAL

The process of sensitisation and information for aligning heritage and energy efficiency goals has already begun. The Co2olBricks recommendations indicate a lot of work still to be done. Therefore we strongly recommend continuing the activities in this field to preserve our historic and cultural values.

Hamburg, 3 December 2013

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