

JOINT DECLARATION



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 "Co₂olBricks - 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

- 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.
- A specific energy analysis is an advantage for historic buildings. It shall always be conducted in the case of major rehabilitation.
- Climate change mitigation plans shall consider heritage issues, and energy efficiency matters shall be included in heritage conservation guidelines. 3.
- 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.
- 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.
- Financial support programmes specially dedicated to energy efficiency of historic buildings shall be developed.
- Further research on energy efficiency measures in historic buildings shall be conducted.

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.

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	Hamburg, 3 December 20
Signatures:	
Andrew Kunn	JElito
01 Department for Heritage Preservation Hamburg, Mr Andreas Kellner, Head of	10 Information Center for Sustainable Renovation, Mr Tarmo A.Elvisto, Managing
Department Ordelia Clae p	Director and Member of the Board
02 Ministry of Urban Development and Environment Hamburg,	
Ms Cordelia Koenig, Specialist for Climate Change Mitigation	11 Kohtla-Järve Town Government, Ms Riina Ivanova, Chairwoman of Kohtla-Järve
J./m	Town Council
03 Vocational Training Centre Hamburg, Mr Torsten Rendtel, Managing Director	12 Centre for Development Programs, Ms Anne Randmer, CEO and Board Member
Jus-Peter Koopmany	The country of the co
04 City of Kiel, Department of Environment, Mr Jens-Peter Koopmann, Climate	13 Riga City Council, Mr.Gvido Princis, City Chief Architect of Riga
Change Mitigation Coordinator Mu. M. M. W. M. W. M. W.	Alle
05 Stockholm City Museum, Ms Ann-Charlotte Backlund, City Conservation	14 Riga Technical University, Ms Prof Dagnija Blumberga Director and Professor,
Director Head of the Stockholm City Museum	Institute of Energy Systems and Environment
Sterlen	Shall
06 Energy Agency for Southeast-Sweden, Mr Stefan Olsson, Project Manager	15 European Foundation/for Monument Protection, Ms Aleksandra Kocialkowska, Managing Director
07 Swedish National Heritage Board, Mr Christian Runeby, Head of Unit at the	16 Republican Centre for Technology Transfer, Mr Alexander Uspenskiy, Managing
Department for Conservation	Director .
08 Malmö Stad, Mr Milan Obradovic, Vicemayor for Housing and Infrastructure	17 KIINKO Real Estate Education, Mr. Keijo Kaivanto, CEO of Kiinko
May and	Mush
09 Danish Building Research Institute, AAU, Mr Niels-Jørgen Aagaard, Research	18 Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Ms Dr. Jurate Venckauskaite, Assoc.
Director, Danish Building Research Institute (CDi)	Professor