

## Declaration of Cooperation

The representatives of the organisations below are willing to sign the present Agreement to enlarge their cooperation on the field of reactivating historic buildings in the countryside for cultural-tourist function, as part of our common European Heritage.

- 1- The partners, TURIHAB Solares de Portugal-Portugal, CHATEAU ACCUEIL-France, WOLSEY LODGES-United Kingdom, THE HIDDEN IRELAND-Ireland and ERFGOED LOGIES-Netherlands, have established an European Economic Interest Group (EEIG) “EUROPA TRADITIONAE CONSORTIUM”- *Europe of Traditions* with the specific intention of promoting transnational itineraries for tourists throughout Europe, based on accommodation in private heritage houses in rural locations.
- 2- EUROPA TRADITIONAE CONSORTIUM and in particular by TURIHAB and CCRN- Northern Portugal Region is contributing to the development of rural soft tourism in the regions/ countries, particularly in Slovenia and Western Hungary, but also Upper Frankonia (Baviera), to introduce this new form of tourism aiming at the valorisation of the rural patrimony. Through the creation of regional/national networks of castles, manors, farm and country houses, offering private quality accommodation, in order:
  - To help in preserving the cultural and architectural heritage through renovation and conservation of traditional buildings of character;
  - To promote a unique product, quality accommodation in private homes, thus encouraging the personal contact between hosts and guests and helping the visitors to understand and enjoy the customs and culture of the host country and regions;
  - To increase the attraction of rural areas, through a new concept of environment-friendly tourism, allowing the improvement of existing, or development of new facilities, e.g. in infrastructure and sports;
  - To generate new and lasting sources of income and employment in rural areas, not only directly but also indirectly through generation of secondary and tertiary activities, e.g. in agro-industry, transport, handicrafts and services.

The objectives are:

- To Strengthen and consolidate the market image of *Europe of Traditions* as the provider of accommodation in private heritage houses in each of the participating countries, strongly linked to each country's own national association.
- To facilitate the construction of transactional European itineraries based on rural heritage tourism.
- To improve and adapt the reservation centres, internet sites and brochures of each member association, in creating a Central Unit of Coordination.

Ponte de Lima, 17 de Junho de 2000

TURIHAB SOLARES DE PORTUGAL - PORTUGAL

THE HIDDEN IRELAND - IRELAND

CHÂTEAU ACCUEIL - FRANCE

WOLSEY LODGES - UNITED KINGDOM

ERFGOED LOGIES - NETHERLANDS

C.C REGIÃO NORTE - PORTUGAL

REGIÃO DE VAS COUNTY - HUNGARY

REGIÃO DA BAVIERA - GERMANY

CIDADE LJUBLJANA - SLOVENIA