

- CALL FOR PAPERS -

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND COMMEMORATIVE EVENT ON
THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM WORLD WAR I

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENARY

26-28 June 2014, Bruges (Belgium)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



The Protection of
the Underwater Cultural
Heritage

Organized by UNESCO and the Government of Flanders

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Government of Flanders



- Dates : 26 -28 June 2014
- Venue: Provincial Courthouse, Bruges, Belgium
- Congress language : English
- Deadline for submission of papers: 30 March 2014

Theme

A scientific conference and commemorative event on underwater cultural heritage from World War I is organized by UNESCO and the Government of Flanders from 26 to 28 June 2014 in Bruges, Belgium, in occasion of the Centenary of World War I. The event will include a two-day scientific conference and a one-day commemorative event.

World War I was a global conflict involving the world's major powers of the period. It paved the way for tremendous political changes and led to the creation of the first permanent international organization with the mission to maintain world peace, the League of Nations, predecessor of the United Nations system. The Centenary of World War I provides a unique opportunity to remind society of the importance of peace and to enhance understanding of history through the research and preservation of heritage left by the conflict. Its submerged heritage is extremely extensive, but has until now been especially insufficiently researched, displayed, and understood. Public knowledge of this heritage is extremely limited, while it

- CALL FOR PAPERS -

is highly endangered, for instance by treasure-hunt and industrial metal recovery. These World War I wrecks are however sources of invaluable historical information, as they conserve a snapshot of history in their hulls. They are also grave sites to be commemorated and respected. The research on these sites and preserving them shall foster reconciliation and contribute to peace-building. The protection of WWI's underwater cultural heritage is essential so that humanity never forgets the horror of war and its human consequences. The UNESCO 2001 Convention will protect World War I underwater heritage dating from 2014 onwards (upon the centenary of sinking), for all countries that have ratified this international legal instrument. The Meeting of States Parties to the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage decided hence to organize in an international effort special commemorative and scientific events on underwater cultural heritage from World War I.

Sessions

Three different sessions will address the following topics:

- Session I: World War I on Sea and the Historic Impact of the Naval War
- Session II: World War I Underwater Cultural Heritage
- Session III: Towards a Research and Action Plan

Paper Submission

We invite participants wishing to propose a paper for one of the three sub-themes to submit a brief summary of no more than 300 words of their proposal in English. The provisional agenda on the following page may help you define the title of the paper you wish to present. The abstract should mention:

- the full title of the paper
- the chosen sub-theme
- the author's name(s), institutional affiliation and contact details
- three to five keywords reflecting the general topic of the paper

The deadline for the submission of this proposal is **30 March 2014**. The abstract should be sent in Word-doc to Ulrike Guérin, 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage at u.guerin@unesco.org.

Communication

The papers are expected to be 15 minutes long and accompanied by a Power-Point presentation or video. The Power-Point file should be sent in advance to the organizers. These presentations will form the scientific basis of the Conference, and will feed into the discussions and resulting Working Groups, Research and Action Plans.



- PROVISIONAL AGENDA -

Thursday, 26 June:

- 10 am** - Opening
 - 11 am** - Session I - World War I on Sea and the Historic Impact of the Naval War
 - 1 pm** - Sandwich lunch
 - 2 pm** - Session II - World War I Underwater Cultural Heritage
 - The Vastness of the Heritage
 - The Threats
 - The Gap Research fills
 - Improving Research & Inventorisation
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- 6.30 pm**- Cultural Visit

Friday, 27 June:

- 9 am** - Presentations of research initiatives and programmes
- 12 am** - Session III - Towards a Research and Action Plan
 - How to achieve Preservation and Understanding
 - Underwater Heritage and Peace Education
 - Making the Heritage and its History visible
- 1 pm** - Sandwich lunch
- 2 pm** - Working Groups and Debates
- 5.30 pm** - Adoption of Declaration, Research and Action Plan

7 pm - Reception in Townhouse of Bruges

Saturday, 28 June:

- 11 am** – Cultural Visits in Bruges
- Worldwide: Start of Dive for Peace Day
- 2 pm** – Excursion to Significant Coastal WWI Sites
- 7 pm** - Bruges- Festive Reception
- Worldwide: Remembrance Signaling at Sea
- 9.40 pm** – Official Commemoration Event

For further inquiries, please contact Ms Ulrike Guérin

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