**ECOVAST EVENT FRANTISKOVY LAZNE – CZECH REPUBLIC**

**27-31 MARCH 2015 (Arrival Day; 3 Day Event: Departure Day)**

*This is the first time that ECOVAST has met in the Czech Republic and we would like to thank our Czech friends and colleagues who have helped us arrange this event.*

**THE PROGRAMME**

FRIDAY 27th March 2015: Arrival in Frantiskovy Lazne and check into hotels. Frantiskovy has no airport but is connected by train to Cheb and Cheb is connected by train to Prague and to Nurnberg in Germany.

*There will be no formal event on the Friday but it is hoped that many of us can meet up for dinner somewhere in Frantiskovy – there appear to be many restaurants and cafes.*

**SATURDAY 28th March 2015**: The Conference Day. The venue is being booked (still to be finally confirmed) by the Wellness Hotel Ida – not in the hotel itself but in a room nearby.

DRAFT programme for this day: The event language will be English. Translators into French are being sought.

The conference will run as follows.

1. Welcome by ECOVAST President
2. Presentation on the work of The Association of Local Government of the Czech republic (speaker to be confirmed)
3. Presentation on the Competitiveness of the Small Towns in Czech republic published by University of West Bohemia in 2011 (speaker to be confirmed)
4. Coffee break
5. Presentation on the ECOVAST work on small towns and the research that underpinned the publication ‘The Importance of Small Towns’ by Valerie Carter
6. Break for lunch
7. Q and A session followed by discussion on the issues facing small towns
8. Introduction to the Small Towns Tour taking place on Sunday
9. Introduction to the Landscape event - tour and workshop taking place on Monday
10. End of conference and break for tea

Late Afternoon : ECOVAST members will be expected to attend the 2 meetings after the conference

A: Short meeting for members of ECOVAST – the Extraordinary Meeting to agree amendments to the Statutes. Copies of the existing Statutes and Proposed Amendments to Section 10 have already been sent out to the ECOVAST National Sections. Decisions and votes should have been sent to the ECOVAST International Committee and the meeting should only take half an hour.

B. Followed by the ECOVAST Biennial Assembly. This is the GA for 2014 which was carried over into 2015.

A Conference Evening Dinner in Cheb (still to be confirmed)

**SUNDAY 29th March 2015**: Full day tour by minibus to small towns in both the Czech Republic and Germany. There will be coffee stop at the first town, lunch at another town and tea at the final town in Germany before returning to Frantiskovy. The actual towns to be visited will be confirmed later but the list under discussion includes Frantiskovy Lazne; Loket and As in the Czech Republic and Bad Brambach; Bad Elster and Selb in Germany. A full briefing pack will be issued in English and French. *The tour is being organised by Valerie Carter of ECOVAST with help from Czech colleagues Radim Srsen and Jana Smotkova.*

**MONDAY 30th March 2015:**  Workshop on landscape identification. Half day tour by minibus to the border area, part of the European Green Belt, covering the former ‘Iron Curtain’. After the lunch break there will be the afternoon indoor work on what we found at the excursion, in Frantiskovy.

*The tour and workshop is being organised by Dr Arthur Spiegler of ECOVAST with help from Czech colleagues Klara Saltzmann.*

*Some delegates may wish to depart in the evening of the 3Oth.*

**TUESDAY 31st March 2015:** Departure from Frantiskovy Lazne.