

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting

Krakow, Poland

19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Sławomir Kadrow

Theme:

Managing the Archaeological Record and the Cultural Heritage

Session Title:

Rescue excavations in motorways, pipelines and other large infrastructure development projects

Abstract:

Archaeological evidence is the main source of our knowledge of the past. Sometimes it is very subtle and fragile because it is hidden and easily destroyed. Hence most states, conscious of their history and common legacy of humanity, protect it in a firm way. Confirming that the European archaeological heritage is endangered by increasing number of area management projects, natural threats and insufficient public consciousness, the European Convention for Protection of Archaeological Heritage declared in 1992 in La Valetta, that the signatories have the duty to protect archaeological relics and create proper laws for this need. The so-called Malta Convention sets the framework for collective and individual responsibilities and concrete actions to safeguarding and enhancing the archaeological heritage. However, many European countries developed the own rules and found own ways how to fulfill the recommendations of the mentioned Convention.

The aim of the proposed session is to take into consideration the financial, organizational and legal aspects of rescue excavations on the routes and areas of planned motorways, pipelines and other large infrastructure development projects in various parts of Europe. We would like to compare experiences of archaeologists, practicing their profession during rescue excavations conducted in various natural, political and juridical circumstances.

No less important than above mentioned aspects of rescue excavations are their historical and scientific results. In many cases they have already altered or widened our views on some problems in regional prehistory. At last we would like to pay attention to educational

aspect of large rescue excavations and their potential in popularization of archaeology in general and particularly of protection of archaeological heritage.

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