

# Letter of Intent

## HISTRAM CHARTER

### HISTORICAL TRAMWAYS AS A EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### Founder members:

<u>ATTS (Associazione Torinese Tram Storici)</u>	<u>Turin-Italy</u>
<u>FMTM (Freunde des Münchner Trambahn-museums)</u>	<u>Munich-Germany</u>
<u>ROMEO (Rotterdams Openbaar Vervoer Museum en Exploitatie Oldtimers)</u>	<u>Rotterdam-Netherlands</u>
<u>SSS (Svenska Spårvägssällskapet)</u>	<u>Stockholm - Sweden</u>

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Munich, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

  
  


## 1. PURPOSES AND FEATURES OF HISTRAM

Historical tramways can be considered as an unique industrial and cultural heritage. Tramways have played an indispensable role in the growth of our cities and towns. They have fostered communication and sped transportation. Today, historical tramways, through the role they played, still remind us of our common heritage and the development of modern cities worldwide.

HISTRAM is an European cooperation network that gathers historical tramway associations and museums together. Each country is represented by one organisation. Each country organisation can represent other organisations in the same country.

The purpose of HISTRAM's members is to work together, in order to promote and enhance historical tramways in their cities and countries, mainly using existing tram networks, towards the goal to let them become informative and active museum pieces and cultural assets.

The members intend to plan international cooperation projects, of which each project may involve all or only some members.

HISTRAM activities are strongly based upon voluntary work provided by the members of each association and museum and especially dedicated to restoration, operation and promotional activities.

Participation to HISTRAM is free of charge.

HISTRAM does not have a juridical status nor any governance bodies: all decisions are taken in plenary meetings.

Additional European members from non participating countries are welcome, when fulfilling the admission criteria quoted at point 2, declaring their full acceptance of the contents of HISTRAM Charter and provided full consent of all existing members.

As a consequence of participating in HISTRAM, each association and museum becomes a permanent member of all other existing member organisations, as a juridical person, without any membership fee.

Members may also sign specific twinning agreements amongst them, without implications in HISTRAM activities.

The official language of HISTRAM is English.

## 2. ADMISSION CRITERIA

Each HISTRAM member must meet the following criteria. The member must:

- be a non-profit making organisation.
- be independent from political, racial and religious constraints;
- have an independent juridical status (separated from any commercial transport company);
- have the financial capacity needed to complete the actions proposed;
- be equipped with or have access to authentic and fully operational historical tramcars;
- have access to an existing tram network or to an important museum circuit, where to operate historical tramcars;

## 3. WORKGROUP COORDINATION

The members will nominate a Coordinator, officially representing HISTRAM in all common activities and international relations.

The Coordinator will perform his activities free of charge.

The Coordinator is in charge for a period of two years, following a rotation criterion.

The Coordinator draws up all the official acts and all meetings proceedings, and signs on behalf of all members, provided that the coordinator has obtained the prior written power of attorney.

The coordinator collects the application requests of new members and submits them to the workgroup for approval.

The members agree to assign to ATTS - Torino the role of Project Coordinator for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 till January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Each member represents HISTRAM in his own Country.

Each member must for HISTRAM activities nominate at least one official representative, who will keep in touch with the coordinator and will be able to attend HISTRAM meetings.



#### 4. ANNUAL HISTRAM MEETINGS

Every year at least one general convention is held in one of the member countries, to be attended by the representatives of each HISTRAM member.

Each HISTRAM convention is an official meeting, where to plan and coordinate activities, submit international projects, exchange experiences, approve new memberships and discuss any subject related to historical tramways. Urgent matters can be decided through e-mail.

The date is normally fixed on a week-end and the programme is prepared by the coordinator and by the "home" member, in accordance with other members.

The programme must include a plenary session for discussions and a tour aboard local historical tramcars and/or a visit to local venues /tram museums.

At least 30 days before the annual meeting the coordinator sends an agenda in cooperation with the host member.

During plenary sessions, decisions are taken by the absolute majority (half + 1 of the members).

The admission of new members requires unanimity full consent (100% of the members).

#### 5. COMMITMENTS

Members commit themselves not to use any information or contents of HISTRAM projects with a third party for different purposes not related to HISTRAM itself.

Each member commits himself to organise in his own city, with a yearly rotation criterion, a session of the annual convention.

A country organisation can never be obliged to participate in any project proposed by HISTRAM.

Each member commits himself to provide an updated specific section, dedicated to HISTRAM, inside his own internet site (with a common shared part in English maintained by the coordinator.)

Each member declares that his own organization fully satisfies the admission criteria quoted at point 2.

#### 6. LETTER OF INTENT

This Letter of Intent serves to reflect the intentions of the members and is therefore not a legally binding agreement.

This Letter of Intent has been executed in four identical copies, of which each member has received one copy.

Approved by:

(signed in Munich on 14th September, 2008)

ATTS -Turin..........Mr. Roberto Cambursano (president)

FMTM -Munich..........Mr. Markus Trommer (president)

ROME0 - Rotterdam..........Mr. Ruud van Middelkoop (president)

ROME0 - Rotterdam..........Mr. Leo De Waard (secretary)

SSS - Stockholm..........Mr. Björn Strähle (president)