



MEDIA RELEASE

8th May 2026

EHTTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

During its General Assembly held in Caldas da Rainha on 7th May 2026, the members of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association elected their Executive Council for a new four-year mandate.

The newly appointed Council confirmed the current leadership team, including President Riccardo Mortandello, alongside Vice Presidents Isidre Pineda, Eric Brut, Markos Danas, Victor Leal, and Isabelle Grégoire.

The newly formed group confirmed the existing Board with President Riccardo Mortandello (Mayor of Montegrotto Terme), Vice Presidents Isidre Pineda (Mayor of Caldes de Montbui), Eric Brut (General Director of Route des Villes d'Eaux, France), Markos Danas (Secretary General of Hellenic Association of Municipalities with Thermal Springs, Greece), Victor Leal (CEO of Termas de Sao Pedro do Sul), Isabelle Grégoire (Director Tourist Office Spa, Belgium).

EHTTA Members of the Executive Council are:

Baden bei Wien (Austria), Budapest Spas (Hungary), Bursa Culture and Tourism Promotion Union (Turkey), Caldas da Rainha (Portugal), Caldes de Montbui (Catalonia Spain), EuroCity Chaves-Verín (Portugal/Spain), Hellenic Association of Municipalities with Thermal Springs (Greece), Montegrotto Terme (Italy), Ourense Province (Spain), Route des Villes d'Eaux du Massif Central (France), Sao Pedro do Sul (Portugal), Spa (Belgium), Vichy (France), Viterbo (Italy), Wiesbaden (Germany).

President Riccardo Mortandello aims at strengthening EHTTA's recognition as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and its presence and recognition among European institutions. "It is the necessary condition for defending and enhancing the



EUROPEAN HISTORIC THERMAL TOWNS

Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraires culturels
du Conseil de l'Europe



historic thermal identity of our cities, for accessing targeted funding instruments, and for influencing European policies on health, tourism and cultural heritage.”

- ENDS -

Historic Thermal Towns on social media



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www.historicthermaltowns.eu



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#ThermalTravels

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Notes for Editors

1. EHTTA is a membership organisation representing **53 members in 20 European countries*** and two international partners in overseas.
2. EHTTA was **certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe** in 2010 and is one of 49 thematic routes of the programme. Launched by the Council of Europe in 1987, Cultural Routes demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to a shared and living cultural heritage.
3. EHTTA was founded in 2009 with six Founding Members: Acqui Terme (Italy), Bath (UK), Ourense (Spain), Salsomaggiore Terme (Italy), Spa (Belgium) and Vichy (France).
4. Since 2019 EHTTA has been an Affiliate Member of UN Tourism, signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Thermal Tourism with the global organization in 2022. In November 2025 it received the UN Tourism recognition for “Innovative knowledge and product development”.
5. In September 2022, EHTTA signed the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Change in Tourism as supporting partner.
6. EHTTA is advisory partner in charge of communication in the [Interreg Europe project “GreenSPAS – Improving public policies of European spa towns and regions facing climate change”](#).

*Member States of the Council of Europe