



Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, England. SY8 1DG

Dear Sir

European Commission Directorate of Education and Culture  
Lifelong Learning Programme

It was with great pleasure that this week (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>) I was invited to present the UK-Romania Leonardo Conservation Craft Skills Training Programme to an international audience in Birmingham, England. I was able to illustrate with dramatic images the outstanding landscape and built heritage of the towns and villages of Transylvania and the many conservation projects currently being undertaken to care and conserve this outstanding and unique aspect of Romanian Culture.

Amongst the audience was Mr Sergio Corti Director of the Directorate General for Education and Culture who particularly applauded the efforts of the Romanian and UK craftsmen in this restoration work using EC monies to safeguard national heritage, create employment opportunities and sustain a burgeoning tourist industry.

**Against this background I was surprised and dismayed to learn of the despoliation of many historic facades in the villages of Crit and Mesendorf where the insensitive installation of electricity meter boxes is violating the appearance of the buildings and creating distress to local inhabitants.**

Whilst I cannot believe this has been given formal approval by the relevant authorities, it is nevertheless occurring as you read this letter and undoing the efforts of a great many Romanian/European citizens who are proud of their distinct identity within the new Europe. I urge you to put an end to this random installation of utility apparatus until proper planning of the location of this equipment has been undertaken in order that connections may be made without destruction of irreplaceable building fabric and decoration.

I appreciate the difficulties involved in rapid modernisation but there is a path where history, culture and contemporary living can co exist for the benefit of all and I wish you every success in this endeavour.

*Colin J Richards*

*Colin Richards M.B.E*  
*Conservation Officer*  
*South Shropshire District Council*



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

*Caroline Fernolend*  
*Director*  
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