



**Syndicat Professionnel  
des Emaillleurs Français/  
French Enamellers Guild**

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Limoges, the 1st of March 2018

Dear friends,

We would like to inform you that French Enamellers Guild has decided to concentrate its efforts on the four following matters :

- protection of the material
- protection of the skills
- development of the continuing education (first workshop will take place in June 2018)
- organisation of the international event (2019 or 2020)

As you surely know, different factors threaten enamelling in France as well as in other European countries:

- fraudulent name of synthetic resin, sold as vitreous enamel by jewelry industries, paint industries, jewelry retailers
- European laws aiming to reduce or prohibit the components essential to the vitreous enamel production, without proposing any real substitute suitable for all enamelling techniques
- low transmission of skills
- lack of visibility of different potential markets favourable to the development of our workshops.

**Today SPEF has the will and the energy to look for solutions which would help to maintain our endangered activity.**

**We take our time to report our growing concern due to the European laws. You should realize that very soon we are likely to be driven to the wall.**

**Even if we stay on guard and we get some exemptions, it would be difficult to maintain them in a few years time if we don't act now. We might see the art of enamelling disappear due to the prohibition to sell our work in Europe and to the end of the enamel powder production.**

**We remind you that we are a small group of enthusiasts to mobilize, with no special means or personal ambitions. We are driven by the only hope to be able to practice our profession still for a long time.**

**This is the reason why we've decided to put in place the project of including the art of enamelling into UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.**

**The process will be long but it seems to be the only way to improve the status, to maintain and above all to protect our profession in Europe.**

**We choose to bring this project on the worldwide level, by identifying some countries which practice this art using their own specific techniques, in order to create a more cohesive and stronger communication.**

**We have already taken the initiative by contacting the French Ministry of Culture as well as various local, national and European politicians.**

**But we also need you and your international contacts.**

**Indeed, before constituting the project we need to know which countries States Parties to the Convention of UNESCO 2003 included enamelling into their national inventory of skills. And that will be the first information to collect.**

**We also need to know if those countries are interested in this kind of a project.**

On our side we are going to contact the Ambassies of these countries (Spain, Germany, Italy, Japan, China, Mexico, Morocco, Switzerland, Georgia...).

As far as we know, Russia, United States, Great Britain and Canada are not State Parties to this Convention, so, unfortunately, they won't be able to join the project.

We will also contact different political organisations in order to ask for help in our project.

**Please don't hesitate transmit this information to as many people as you can.**

**Please take your time to alert your foreign colleagues enamellers about the European laws, as we have an impression that it is only in France that we've heard about those laws.**

**We are thankful for any advice or help from you, who carry with us the strong commitment on behalf of all and our profession.**

Hoping that now you believe that it is finally time to unite, we send you our best wishes.

Kind regards

**The team of SPEF/French Enamellers Guild**