

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Origin of the Project

Nowadays, word *Louvre* evokes a museum and word *Tuileries* a garden. It proves that something is wrong somewhere. Result of three centuries of perseverance, the Tuileries Palace is inseparable of the Louvre Palace, although burned during the throes of the German-French war of 1870-1871. It is a *monument of memory* which can not fade of the capital, even though it disappeared. Tuileries were the seat of power under all the regimes from 1789 till 1870.

Napoleon III qualified the set Louvre-Tuileries of *national work*, underlining that the history of monuments has its philosophy as well as the history of facts. He was a precursor in many fields. He signed in the Tuileries a personal letter to the main heads of States in Europe, proposing a general disarmament, considering the European wars as civil wars since Europe is a Family indeed. He also proposed them to set up a permanent congress to solve peacefully all international controversies: a foreshadowing of the UNO.

No law decided to destroy the Tuileries. On the contrary, the Government committed solemnly in 1882 to reconstruct the palace (*Senate, June 28, 1882, Debates*). But it did not keep its promise. The set Louvre-Tuileries was conceived to be a fine art enclosure. It is distorted and weakened by this decrease which constitutes the empty of 266 m of wide. Our purpose is to gather what is scattered.

Hausmann explained in a convincing way that the perspective of Champs Elysées requires the reconstruction of the Tuileries: the longest perspective of Paris would not be blocked but returned to itself and glorified. He also underlined that the main thing is to preserve and to pass on to new generations the thought of the architect, even though the support (the stone) is not of time. What matters is not material but expression of the feeling of the author.

Germany (rebuilding of the Frauenkirche in Dresde and the Berlinschloss), Luxemburg (rebuilding of the Vianden castle), Russia (Peterhof in St. Petersburg) show us the good example.

2. The Project

This beautiful and useful Project consists of reconstruct the building as it was before being fired in May 1871. This is now the 135th anniversary of that crime against the fine arts as well as against the Western culture.

All the drawings, the paintings and the furniture are carefully preserved. Also the strong foundations in the ground are still in place and in order although almost half a century old. They just got interrupted in the middle to manage an entrance to the bus and cars park constructed under the courtyard.

A 100 m² Belvedere, fantastic panoramic viewpoint on the whole capital could be fitted out at the top of the central dome of the Tuileries. The tourists from abroad will thus be able to consider the long perspective but this time and also the beautiful one on the opposite direction towards the Louvre.

In lieu of the theatre of Napoleon, dismantled during the reign of Napoleon III, we will construct an up-to-date 600-seat auditorium.

The building will develop 20.730 m² and be used as a most prestigious international conference centre and a fascinating Tuileries Museum.

In the centre of Paris, the retrieved Tuileries will not bar the perspective of the Champs-Élysées but restore it and even glorify it. We must keep in mind that the Arch de Triomphe, at the top of the Champs-Élysées, was decided by Napoleon to face the Tuileries.

3. Cost of the Project

Total cost of the Project is 300,000,000 euros, i.e. approximately 15,000 €/m². That cost is 25 % of the cost of all the works in the Louvre, under the presidency of François Mitterrand.

An extra cost of 200,000,000 euros should be planned in a second stage as a safety margin for technical and urban environment and also for the decoration of the reception rooms. Business Plan has been structured and scheduled accordingly with our experienced Architects.

4. Schedule of the works

A total of 5 years is necessary to complete all the works.

5. The State of France and the Project

The site is owned by the State of France and under the rule of the Ministry for Arts.

The legal existence and the stand of the National Committee for rebuilding the Tuileries, a new society founded and led by Alain Boumier, is acknowledged with interest by the Presidency of the Republic and of course by the Minister for Arts.

The prerequisite of the State is that the financing of the rebuilding must be totally private whatsoever, for example based on donations, without any involvement of the State Budget.

Position of the City of Paris is the same.

In consequence we informed the Authorities that our purpose is to raise 300,000,000 euros through an appropriate financing without any pressure on the taxpayer. SED is in charge of raising that amount through a proper and professional setting up of finance based on the 5-year schedule of use of the funds.

6. Political and social support

Presidency of the National Assembly (1994)

In 1994, answering a question of Mr. Philippe Seguin, President of the National Assembly, Alain Boumier as President of the Academy of the Second Empire, issued a 40-page Report proposing the reconstruction of the Tuileries.

The President of the National Assembly replied by an official letter granting his full support to the Project. But as we know, priorities in politics are not always those of the heart of State men.

Ten years later, in 2004, with the full support of *Le Figaro* and afterwards of many newspapers, Alain Boumier founded the National Committee for the Reconstruction of the Tuileries. The Project is now supported by the public opinion.

Presidency of the Republic (2005-2006)

The Head of State, Mr. Jacques Chirac, has a very positive attitude towards the Project to be funded privately. He signed personally an important letter about it on 5 October 2005. Furthermore, we then got two constructive letters from the desk of his close counsellors.

Presidency of the Senate (2006)

On 18 January 2006, the President of the Senate, Mr. Christian Poncelet, granted Alain Boumier a long and positive audience. He brought his full support to the Project and emphasized that we must set up a private financing completely independent from the State Budget. If not the Project cannot go through.

He advised Alain Boumier to steadily persevere in this great Project and recommended him to contact on his behalf a former Minister of François Mitterrand, presently member of the Culture Committee of the Senate. Let us keep in mind that the President of the Senate is the Second Person of the Republic, and replaces the President in case of necessity.

On 6 June 2006,

Ministry for Arts (2004-2006)

On 20 February 2006, Alain Boumier was invited by Mr. Maurice Druon, former Minister for Arts and Member of the Académie Française, for a lunch with the Minister for Arts, Mr. Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres to talk about the Project. The Minister stated that he approves it provided there will be no involvement whatsoever of the State Budget.

The City of Paris (2005-2006)

Although not owning the land, the City of Paris is obviously party to the destiny of the Tuileries. As well as to the Head of State, to the Minister for Arts and the President of the Senate, Alain Boumier wrote a detailed letter to the Mayor of Paris. The answer expresses interest and positive neutrality.

The Institut of France (2004-2006)

- **French Academy:** Mr. Maurice Druon, former Permanent Secretary to the French Academy, supports strongly the Project. Jean Dutourd brings his support too.
- **Academy of political sciences:** Support the Project: Mr. Jean Foyer, former Minister of Justice of Général de Gaulle, Mr. André Damien, former Mayor of Versailles. Associate members: Otto von Habsburg, former member of the European Parliament (Germany, and Head of the Imperial Family, Austria), Professor John Rogister (UK). Correspondent Members: Mrs. Anne Muratori Philip, Journalist.

Other Former Ministers (2004-2006)

Mr. Jean-Philippe Lecat, for Minister for Arts, Mr Jean Taittinger (Champagne Taittinger) former Minister of Justice do support strongly the Project.

National Geographic Society (2005-2006)

Founded in 1821, that world known reputable learned society decided in 2005 to revive the *Empress Eugenie Prize*. It was granted one time only, in 1869, to Ferdinand de Lesseps for the completion of the Suez Canal. Empress Eugenie was the wife of Napoleon III. The National Geographic Society took the decision to grant jointly the Academy of the Second Empire and its President Alain Boumier for the Tuileries rebuilding.

6 June 2006, The Decree who establishing the commission

On 6 June 2006, the Minister for Arts, Mr. Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres published a decree who established a commission for investigate the feasibility of the Tuileries

Rebuilding Project, presided by Mr. Maurice Druon, former Minister for Arts and Member of the Académie Française. Mr. Alain Boumier, president of the National Committee for the Reconstruction of the Tuileries is presently member of this commission.
