

Prevention is better than cure.

Context

The Charter of Venice (1964) emphasises that the significance of the Built Cultural Heritage can only be sustained if the physical assets are maintained appropriately and systematically. Monument Watch Flanders is an initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation, the Foundation for the Conservation of Monuments and Landscapes and the Flemish Association of Provinces. It was set up in September 1991.

Profile

- > independent advisory body
- > voluntary membership
- > assists the owners or managers of monuments
- > teams of two specialists carry out inspections

Structure and finance

- > organised on a provincial basis
- > 5 autonomous non-profit making associations
- > Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen supports the general operation
- > financed by 5 provincial authorities (67%), the Flemish Region – Monuments and Sites Division (21,5%) and 11,5% revenues from subscription and inspection fees

Regular condition surveys

> Architectural inspection

Report containing:

- > **Recommendations**
 1. Works to be carried out to insure an optimal accessibility and safety
 2. Works to be carried out in view of the preservation
 3. Special attention required in view of durable maintenance

> **Detailed status report**

> **Rooftop plan**

> **Pictures**

Urgent works of repair

On site advice

Maintenance schedule: long term maintenance planning

Report as instrument to apply for maintenance grants



> Interior inspection

Report containing:

- > **Recommendations**
 1. Conservation and restoration
 2. Moulds and insects
 3. Preventive measures
 4. Regular maintenance
 5. Right environmental conditions
 6. Theft, vandalism and fire

> **Detailed status report**

> **Pictures**

Emergency or exemplary interventions



Membership

- > Subscription fee: € 40 per building/year (taxes incl.)
- > Inspection fee: € 46 per hour of actual inspection (taxes incl.)
- > 5000 member buildings in the Flemish Region
- > Member status: 31% public authorities, 29% churches, 40% private owners

Additional support

- > Brochures, newsletter, publications
- > www.monumentenwacht.be
- > Lectures

Monument watch is currently operative with support from the five Flemish Provinces and from the Flemish Community, Monuments and Sites Division.

Looking after monuments in a responsible manner, which guarantees both the authenticity of the historical message and its tangible expression, requires regular maintenance of our cultural heritage. To be effective, this maintenance must be carried out in good time and in the right place, which in turn requires regular, thorough inspections of the structural condition of the building and the condition of the interior and the valuable artefacts.



Monument Watch, an integral approach for the preventive conservation of the cultural heritage.
Belgium (Flemish Region)