



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Bayeux, January 17th 2018**

Following the announcement of the loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to England, a project on the agenda of the Franco-British summit on this Thursday, January 18th, 2018, the City of Bayeux would like to mention again the conditions of such a loan. The millenary work is currently under study with a view to its new presentation in the future Museum of the Tapestry by 2023.

### **Exchanges between the French Government and the City of Bayeux**

Last December, when the City and the State signed a convention, placing the Tapestry in the custody of the city of Bayeux and thus formalizing the status of the famous millenary embroidery - the various services had already discussed a possible loan to British patrimonial institutions.

This project is on the agenda of the Franco-British summit, which will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 in Sandhurst, in the South of London.

No formal request has been made to date; the last one dates back to 1956, on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

### **The possibility of a loan in the context of the new Museum of the Bayeux Tapestry**

The potential loan of the Tapestry is on the agenda with the project of the future Museum of the Tapestry.

The most important issue being the **conservation of the work**, the City and the State are open to a loan but subject to certain conditions and not before 2023, i.e. **during the last phase of the works** to the new Museum (the closing of the museum to the public has not yet been scheduled).

A campaign of studies is currently being programmed in order to determine the need for restoration interventions on the Tapestry; this should result in the **stabilisation** of the work. Only after this intervention will it be possible to decide on the possibility of a loan, depending on the outcome of the stabilisation.

Such a loan could not take place without building a **strong institutional partnership** between the British and the French. This close collaboration will need to begin in the first half of 2018.

To create an institutional collaboration between the Museum of the Tapestry and the British Museums (British Museum, British Library ...) would allow:

- accompanying and nourishing the project in its museographic dimension;
- possible financing;
- partnership on the project of restoration.

If a loan were to be made, not before 2023, the work would have be returned to its showcase for the reopening of the museum in 2025.

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