

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP-Bu(2015)19

Strasbourg, 15 October 2015

**8th meeting of the Bureau
7 October 2015
Council of Europe, Strasbourg
Palais de l'Europe, Room 17**

MEETING REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR

The meeting was opened by Mr Bruno Favel, Committee Chair, who welcomed the participants¹ and pointed out how important the meeting was so that the work on preparing the Strategy for European Cultural Heritage in the 21st century could be launched without further ado. He stressed the need to take account of the contribution of the three “pillars” of the CDCPP, i.e. culture, heritage and landscape, to the implementation of this important project, which had been initiated by the heritage ministers and validated by the Committee of Ministers.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)14 rev.]

The agenda was approved² after inclusion of an item providing information on the preparation of the 2016-2017 budget. The item concerning the landscape convention workshops was deferred to the next meeting.

3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 6th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE (NAMUR, 24-25 April 2015)

3.1 State of implementation (report by the Secretariat: CM decision; results of the consultations with partners – principles, priorities, etc.)

3.2 Methodology for drawing up the “European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century”

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)15]

The Secretariat reminded participants of the different stages of the implementation of the Namur Declaration, from the Committee of Ministers’ decision to the consultation launched during August and finally the proposed methodology presented in document CDCPP-Bu(2015)15.

With regard to the method itself, the Secretariat stressed the importance of forthcoming meetings to take fresh stock of progress made in the Council of Europe’s acquis in this field, to get all relevant sectors involved at national and international level, and to put forward broadly shared proposals.

During the ensuing discussion, several members, while thanking the Secretariat for its document, queried various aspects of the proposal: the launching of extended national consultations, the choice of themes and their link to the Namur guidelines, how to integrate the new problems in particular the threats facing heritage.

The participants confirmed that they agreed on the need to adopt a transparent and effective approach and to launch the work as quickly possible, given that the CDCPP had been given the deadline of June 2016 to approve the Strategy. The Chair stated that it was imperative to associate all the states concerned in the preparatory work and to make a special effort with regard to those whose participation in the CDCPP’s activities had decreased over the last few years.

¹ See Appendix I.

² See Appendix II.

In conclusion, the President asked the Secretariat to draw up a summary setting out the points of agreement reached during the debate so as to validate the methodology as quickly as possible. Mr Pierre Paquet offered to contribute to this exercise by forwarding to the Secretariat as soon as possible a memorandum setting out his proposals for the choice of themes to be addressed by the working groups, and elements of methodology. The summary would propose a new paragraph to replace paragraph 12 of the above-mentioned working document. It would be prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Belgian member of the Bureau and sent to all members as soon as possible for written approval³.

3.3 Activities in support of the methodology for drawing up the Strategy: "European Cultural Heritage (Compendium, volumes I and II)" – publication of a revised version: proposed procedure for approval by the Bureau

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)16]

The Bureau also approved the launching of the updating of the compendium of European cultural heritage (Volume I) and asked that Volume II be prepared once the Strategy had been adopted, so that it could be taken into account.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Information on the second Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Digital Culture held in Linz, 3-4 September 2015

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)17]

The Secretariat presented the outcome of the second meeting of the platform, which had taken place in Linz during the Ars Electronica 2015 festival. The Bureau welcomed the interest that members of the CDCPP and other delegates from member states had shown in the meeting and the event, particularly given that the costs of participation had been covered by the participants themselves.

4.2 Extraordinary meeting of the Reflection Group "EU and Cultural Heritage" on Heritage and International relations, Luxembourg, 24-25 September

The Chair made a short summary of the meeting and drew particular attention to the plan to hold a European Heritage Year in 2018. Such an initiative was obviously of interest to the Council of Europe and he was waiting for the German authorities to announce it to the CDCPP in due time. For the time being, the project was attracting a great deal of interest and support but the European Commission – which would, where appropriate, be responsible for approving and funding it – had not yet given its opinion. The Secretariat said that the idea would be raised at high-level meetings between the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe and the DG-EAC of the European Commission.

4.3 Situation of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq – Initiative for a meeting

Once again the Chair drew the members' attention to the continuing destruction of cultural heritage in these countries and to the need for a co-ordinated response, as requested by the Ministers themselves in the Namur Call. He recalled the need to call on all professional actors, archaeologists, museum specialists and all heritage professionals in charge of concrete projects in relation to States and the International community with a view to saving this heritage through a meeting with International Organisations

³ See Appendix III.

(UNESCO, Council of Europe), inter-governmental (ICCROM) and non-governmental heritage professional organisations (ICOM, ICOMOS, Blue Shield) and States concerned in partnership with the Council of Europe. This meeting could be held in Paris.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) of the Council of Europe intended to update if not completely overhaul Convention 119 (the Delphes Convention), which had never come into force, given the seriousness of the situation concerning the theft and destruction of works of art in Europe and throughout the world. The Bureau confirmed its interest in this subject and was prepared to contribute to any activities that the CDPC might launch with the authorisation of the Committee of Ministers.

4.4 Preparation of the 2016-2017 budget

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the progress made in the procedure for the adoption of the Organisation's next 2-year budget (2016-17), including the examination of the CDCPP's terms of reference for the next two years. Some members regretted that there had been no prior consultation of the delegations on the draft terms of reference drawn up by the Secretariat. Information was also exchanged on certain activities – Compendium of cultural policies, HEREIN and ELCIS in particular – which did not clearly appear in the draft programme and budget for 2016-2017. The members thanked the Secretariat for taking part in this transparency exercise, which they found very useful and asked to be informed of the final version of the programme and budget before its adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

5. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The next Bureau meeting will take place on 23 and 24 (morning) November 2015 in Strasbourg.

APPENDIX I

List of participants

ANNEXE I

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX II

Agenda

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)14 rev.]

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3.2 Methodology for drawing up the "European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century"

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3.3 Activities in support of the methodology for drawing up the Strategy: "European Cultural Heritage (Compendium, volumes I and II)" – publication of a revised version: proposed procedure for approval by the Bureau

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)16]

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Information on the second Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Digital Culture held in Linz, 3-4 September 2015

[CDCPP-Bu(2015)17]

4.2 Extraordinary meeting of the Reflection Group "EU and Cultural Heritage" on Heritage and International relations, Luxembourg, 24-25 September

4.3 Situation of cultural heritage in Syria and Irak – Initiative for a meeting

4.4 Information on the 16th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention "Landscape and transfrontier cooperation: the landscape knows no boundary", 1-2 October 2015, Andorra la Vella, Andorra

4.5 Date and agenda for the next Bureau meeting (23-24 November 2015)

5 CLOSE OF THE MEETING

APPENDIX III

Strategy 21 will be prepared as follows:

The **group of experts** (GE) set up ahead of the Namur conference to prepare Strategy 21 proposals for that event will be re-formed, with possible changes and additions suggested by the Secretariat. The Belgian delegation (Walloon Region) and the Secretariat will consult one another. The Bureau will be consulted as appropriate.

This group of experts (GE) will present, as soon as possible, a reference text for the Strategy (RTS), which will be circulated to all the CDCPP delegations and the observers.

The Secretariat will invite all the CDCPP delegations to attend, or send a "heritage" expert to represent them at, a meeting in Paris (Council of Europe Office) on **1 December 2015**. The purpose of this meeting will be to make comments on the RTS and to provide guidelines for the thematic work which will be conducted, in principle, by the GE.

Between **1 January and 15 March 2016**, the GE will lead or co-ordinate, as the case may be, the activities of the various thematic groups. The Secretariat will be involved in this work.

The results produced by the thematic groups will be summarised by the GE in a final document (preliminary draft Strategy 21) which will be forwarded to all CDCPP members in the **second half of March**. A second plenary meeting of CDCPP experts will be convened at the **beginning of April** 2016.

The conclusions reached at this meeting will be brought to the attention of the CDCPP Bureau which will finalise the preliminary draft Strategy 21 in **April**.

At its **June** meeting (a date has yet to be set), the CDCPP will examine and approve Strategy 21, in the form of an appendix to a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers.

The Council of Europe will cover the costs of participation of CDCPP members (or experts appointed by them) in the two plenary meetings mentioned above and meetings of the EWG and its thematic working groups.