



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP-Bu(2015)7

Strasbourg, 11 March 2015

**7th meeting of the Bureau
Strasbourg, 16 (afternoon) - 17 March 2015**

Palais de l'Europe, Room 14

PREPARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HERITAGE NAMUR, BELGIUM, 22-24 APRIL 2015

DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Item 4.2 of the draft agenda

- The Bureau is invited to take note of the state of preparation of the Conference and to decide on the next steps.

BACKGROUND

At their 1220th meeting on 18 February 2015, the Ministers' Deputies approved the holding of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for heritage in Namur on 23 and 24 April 2015, and decided to entrust the Bureau of the Steering Committee of Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in co-operation with the Belgian authorities, with the preparation of the conference and instructed it to keep them informed of the progress thereon.

PROGRESS

The draft Programme and Presentation Note for the Conference appear in Appendix. The invitations to the Ministers, observers and other participants are being sent out.

NEXT STEPS

During this meeting, the Bureau should decide on:

- **the Conference's theme and sub-themes (if any);**
- **the type and content of the documents** to be submitted to the Conference (introductory documents for the discussions, final draft resolution(s), etc);
- the main outline of the programme (splitting the conference into working sessions, how the discussions will be organised, speeches, etc.).

On 17 March 2015, the Secretariat will make an oral presentation to the Rapporteur Group on Culture (GR-C) to present the decisions of the Bureau of the CDCPP.

After review and approval by the Bureau, the **preliminary draft final resolution** (to be adopted at the Conference) will be circulated for comments to all CDCPP delegations (likely deadline: 31 March). The Bureau, in conjunction with the Belgian authorities, will then revise the preliminary draft for submission (before 5 April) to the Ministers' Deputies in anticipation of the GR-C of 16 April 2015.

On this occasion, the GR-C may make observations or comments that the Bureau will take into account before formalising the final version of the draft resolution for consideration by the Ministers.

BELGIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HERITAGE
(22-24 APRIL 2015)

The Conference aims to establish the conditions for developing a **European heritage strategy**. These conditions involve, in particular, the confirmation of the Council of Europe's historical role as a forum bringing together all the parties who are able to contribute to this ambitious common reflection.

The introduction of a **European heritage strategy** is more essential than ever and is intended to mark a new stage in the process managed by the Council of Europe for a number of decades, with a view to offering a specific response to current-day challenges in the heritage field, namely:

- The implementation of "good governance" founded on participatory mechanisms permitting citizens to assume an active role in heritage identification and management;
- The adoption of innovative approaches to improving people's living environment and quality of life, founded on local cultural resources and the common good.

A **European heritage strategy** must ultimately help put in place a society which defends and asserts the fundamental European values: human rights, the rule of law and democracy. These values are citizen-focused and cultivate a spirit of mutual respect and of recognition of each person's singularities. They thus help to build a more inclusive, more cohesive society which promotes public well-being as an expression of human rights.

The conference will also constitute an opportunity to lay down guidelines concerning the **themes**, the operational **priorities** and the key tools to be implemented by the member States under this strategy.

CONTEXT

Over more than forty years the Council of Europe has developed a significant body of regulations, which has played a vital role in consolidating and harmonising national heritage policies. These regulations made it possible to save the European heritage from the planned destruction inherent in the major investment policies which were implemented after the Second World War thanks to the strong economic growth which Europe experienced during that period. The Council of Europe has promoted key concepts such as "integrated conservation" (with the Amsterdam Charter and the Granada Convention) or the role of heritage for society (the Faro Convention). This acquis retains its legitimacy, but the aim is to recontextualise it in a European heritage strategy which will also address new challenges.

Today it is necessary to build on these achievements and to resituate these instruments in the light of the challenges facing our modern-day societies. It is politically and ethically indispensable to conceive a less academic heritage approach, focusing more on citizens who must be able to participate in improving their surroundings and their well-being. There is a demand for this within our societies, while at the same time the cultural, social and economic crises in Europe are highlighting that people are adrift and have lost their bearings, that our values are being questioned and that our European project is under threat.

Heritage not only conveys notions of respect, diversity and multi-culturalism, but is also a fertile ground for refounding societies based on their multiple identities, giving them a fresh impetus drawing on their diverse origins, and enhancing participatory governance, which fosters civic engagement as a potential means of supporting public action and making institutions more effective and transparent. The heritage process also promotes a form of economic development that relies on local resources and local intelligence so as to stimulate innovation, growth and job preservation and creation. Our heritage is indeed a unique, non-renewable resource which cannot be relocated and is common to the entire European continent.

An awareness of our common heritage, which conveys a collective narrative, can serve to build a cohesive society founded on diversity, recognised as a source of wealth.

PREPARATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The preparations for the Conference of Ministers responsible for Heritage, to be held in Namur from 22 to 24 April 2015 in the context of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, draw on the work of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape, and add a further dimension to the recent European Union documents emphasising the importance of heritage for the EU's sectoral policies.

The conclusions of the Conference will permit the Committee of Ministers to agree on the principle of a European heritage strategy and entrust the Council of Europe with the task of co-ordinating the strategy development process and creating European synergies, notably in respect of the new European Heritage Year, which has been announced forty years after the one held under the aegis of the Council of Europe in 1975.

**BELGIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HERITAGE
(NAMUR, 22 – 24 APRIL 2015)**

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday 22 April 2015

Arrival of the delegations

Venue: the Walloon Parliament, Rue Notre-Dame n°1 à 5000 Namur

- 4 – 6 pm:** Meeting of senior officials
Preparation of meeting on 23 April
- 7 pm:** Welcome by Mr Maxime PREVOT, Vice-President of the
Walloon Government and Minister for Heritage
- 7.15 pm:** Reception
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Thursday 23 April 2015

Venue: Palais des Expositions, Avenue Sergent Vriethoff 2, B-5000 Namur

- 10 – 11 am:** Address by Mr Maxime PREVOT, Vice-President of the
Walloon Government and Minister for Heritage
- 10 – 10.15 am:** Address by Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy
Secretary General of the Council of Europe, or
representative
- 10.15 – 10.30 am:** Address by Mr Jean-Claude FRECON, President of the
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the
Council of Europe, or representative
- 10.30 – 10.45 am:** Address by Ms Anna RURKA, President of the
Conference of International Non-governmental
Organisations of the Council of Europe, or
representative

Adoption of the Agenda

- 11 am – 12.30 pm:** Working session 1 : **A changing Europe – the challenges of the 21st-century**
Chair: Mr Geert BOURGEOIS, Minister-President of the Flemish Government
- 11 – 11.10 am:** Introduction to theme
- 11.10 am – 12.30 pm:** Discussion
- 12.30 – 2.30 pm:** *Lunch for the Heads of Delegation hosted by the Secretary General*
Lunch for participants hosted by the Walloon Government
- 2.30 – 5 pm:** Working session 2: **How to respond?**
Chair: Mr Rudy VERVOORT, Minister-President of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region
- 2.30 – 2.45 pm:** Introduction to theme
- 2.45 – 5 pm:** Discussion
- 5.15 – 6 pm:** Meeting of senior officials
(if necessary) Purpose: finalisation of final document
- 7.30 pm:** *Gala evening: venue and programme to be confirmed*
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Friday 24 April 2015

Venue: Palais des Expositions, Avenue Sergent Vriethoff 2, B-5000 Namur

- 9.30 – 11 am:** Working session 3: **partnerships to be developed**
Chair: Ms Isabelle WEYKMANS, Vice-Minister-President of the German-speaking Community, Minister for Culture, Employment and Tourism
- 9.30 – 10.30 am:** Co-operation with intergovernmental organisations
- 10.30 – 10.45 am:** Professionals

- 10.45 – 11 am:** Civil society
- 11 am – 12 noon:** Closing session: Adoption of the Namur declaration
Chair: Mr Maxime PREVOT, Vice-President of the Walloon Government and Minister for Heritage
- 12 noon – 12.30 pm:** Any other business
Close of the Conference
- 12.30 pm:** Press conference
- 12.30 – 2 pm:** *Lunch*
- From 2 pm:** Optional programme (to be determined) - visits