



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP-Bu(2013)16

Strasbourg, 19 September 2013

**4th meeting of the Bureau
Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2013**

60th ANNIVERSARY of the EUROPEAN CULTURAL CONVENTION

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION

Item 5 of the draft Agenda

The Bureau is invited to:

- take note of the information provided on the current state of planning for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the European Cultural Convention (Appendix 1);
- welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Anniversary celebration on a national level;
- consider the use of the 2014 European Heritage Days as an excellent communication tool on the meaning and concrete achievements of the ECC, and support the idea of running a continent-wide poetry competition on European culture;
- ask the Secretariat to inform them on the practicalities of this event as well as preparing information briefings for the CDCPP delegates to ensure their participation at the event.

Appendix 1: Information document for the GR-C session on 8 October 2013 on the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention

Ministers' Deputies / Rapporteur Groups

GR-C

Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment

GR-C(2013)12 ... 2013¹

60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention

Information document prepared by the Directorate General of Democracy (DGII)

Item to be considered by the GR-C on 8 October 2013

1. The European Cultural Convention (CETS No.: 018) was opened for signature in Paris on 19 December 1954. It entered into force in 1955 and has been ratified by all member States of the Council of Europe, as well as – to date – by three non-member States.²

2. In December 2014, the Council of Europe will be in a position to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the opening for signature of one of the most successful European conventions. Aiming at “*a policy of common action designed to safeguard and encourage the development of European culture*”, the European Cultural Convention has become the political basis for a rich panorama of conventions, recommendations, institutions, co-operation and field activities particularly in the areas of culture, heritage, language, education and youth.

3. Ten years ago, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Convention, European Ministers of Culture, Education, Youth and Sport gathered in Wroclaw (Poland) on 9 and 10 December 2004. The conference analysed the achievements reached under the Convention, discussed future co-operation and adopted the "Wroclaw Declaration", defining the main lines of action for future Council of Europe-led collaboration in these areas. The anniversary programme ended in October 2005 with a meeting of the European Ministers of Culture where the “[Faro Declaration on the Council of Europe’s Strategy for Developing Intercultural Dialogue](#)” was adopted.

4. After discussing some options for commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Convention without transgressing the prospective budgetary and staff limitations in 2014 and 2015, the DGII has come to two preliminary conclusions:

- the European Cultural Convention has amply demonstrated its political relevance. Although it might be argued that a “modernisation” of the Convention could be useful to better reflect the current state and challenges of European cultural co-operation, the

¹ This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue; it will be declassified in accordance with Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

² The Holy See in 1962, Belarus in 1993 and Kazakhstan in 2010.

efforts needed for such an operation might be disproportionate – particularly in view of the smooth co-operation in practice;

- the 60th anniversary of the Convention should however be used to present its achievements, to discuss its merits and limitations, and to generally focus attention for the activities of the Council of Europe in the fields covered by the Convention.

5. Based on these premises, the GR-C is invited to consider the following proposals:

- the DGII would support initiatives which member States (including, if appropriate, the member State holding the Committee of Ministers' Chairmanship at the time of the 60th anniversary) may wish to develop in order to mark the occasion in the form of a conference, public event, publication etc;
- the "European Heritage Days" in the autumn of 2014 may be a convenient vehicle for relaying the messages connected to the 60th anniversary;
- depending on the availability of voluntary contributions, additional activities (i.e. projects not included in the draft programme of activities 2014-2015) focussing on European cultural co-operation could be realised. Project ideas, such as a continent-wide poetry competition on European culture with winning entries shown on public transport, could be jointly developed;
- the online portal of the Council of Europe will present to a wide audience the achievements reached under the Convention in an attractive and interactive format;
- starting in 2013, the steering committees responsible for the various fields covered by the Convention (primarily the CDCPP, CDPPE and CDEJ/CCJ/CMJ) will be invited to take the anniversary into account when planning their activities in 2014-2015;
- in co-operation with the Directorate of Communication, the Directorate General II will develop a concept for flyers and give-aways.