



## STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau  
Paris, 20-21 September 2012

Council of Europe Offices  
55 Avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris

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### European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage – Progress Report

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#### DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

*The Bureau:*

- **noted** the progress made on the monitoring of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage;
- **thanked** the Croatian authorities for hosting the third meeting of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage;
- **called upon CDCPP members** to sign and ratify the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage.

## BACKGROUND

The European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage (EAHC) and its Protocol are the first binding international instruments in the field of audiovisual heritage and television production. Central to the Convention and the Protocol is the principle of compulsory legal deposit of all moving-image material produced or coproduced and made available to the public in each signatory state. Legal deposit involves a requirement not just to deposit a reference copy with an officially designated archive but also to look after the material and do the necessary conservation work. In addition the material has to be available for consultation for academic or research purposes, subject to the international or national rules on copyright.

This Convention, paving the way for co-operation between film archives in Europe, was opened for signature in 2001 and entered into force on 1st January 2008. Currently, 18 states have signed the convention, including: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg<sup>1</sup>, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. Of these, eight countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>2</sup>, Croatia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Monaco and Slovakia) have ratified it.

## PROGRESS

*Cooperation with the European Commission*

### **Cinema Expert Group/Subgroup Film Heritage**

The Secretariat has been invited to attend the meeting of the Cinema Expert Group/Subgroup Film Heritage, which will take place on 16 October 2012 in Brussels.

### **“Balkans’ Memory, preserving and promoting audiovisual heritage in the Western Balkans”**

The project “[Balkans’ Memory](#), preserving and promoting audiovisual heritage in the Western Balkans”, conducted by INA expert<sup>3</sup>, in cooperation with the Croatian audiovisual centre, the National Film Archive of Tirana and Copeam<sup>4</sup> and supported by the European Commission, was launched on 7 February 2012 in Zagreb. Its global objective is to implement the first step of an ambitious policy of preservation and promotion of audiovisual heritage in the Western Balkans. The Inaugural Conference of the Balkans’ Memory project (lasting 36 months) was successfully held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 in the Mimara Museum, Zagreb, Croatia.

Hosted by the Croatian Audiovisual Center, the event included more than 100 participants, regional decision and policy makers, and stakeholders, experts on the preservation of the audiovisual and cinematographic heritage, from 15 different countries and representatives from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The Chair and a member of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage are actively involved in the Balkans’ Memory project. The European Convention for the Protection of Audiovisual Heritage and regional policies related to its preservation and digitization were presented at the Conference. The directors of the archives in the region use this tool in their daily work. Delegates were keen to find out why their member States have not signed and ratified the Convention.

<sup>1</sup> In 2012.

<sup>2</sup> In 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Higher Education Training Research department of the *Institut National de l’Audiovisuel*, France.

<sup>4</sup> Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators.

<b>NEXT STEPS</b>
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*Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage*

The Croatian authorities offered to host the third meeting of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage on 28 September 2012 at the Mimara Museum and the Croatian National Film Archives in Zagreb. Digital preservation and restoration of audiovisual heritage, as well as relevant European projects, will be amongst the main topics on the agenda of the meeting.

*Cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union*

The EBU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Europe in 2011 and will be participating as an observer in the third meeting of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage.

The Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union will study how to implement the **Recommendation 2001 (2012) on "Protection of and access to the audiovisual cultural heritage"** by the Parliamentary Assembly, which indicates that both organisations should co-operate on strategies to protect, and ensure access to audiovisual material held by public service broadcasters throughout Europe.