



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

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**1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session**  
Strasbourg, 14 – 16 May 2012

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

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### DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Item 5.2.2 of the draft agenda

*The Committee:*

- **noted** the progress made on the monitoring of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage;
- **thanked** the Hungarian authorities for hosting the second 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, 17 states have signed the convention including: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. Of these, only seven countries (Croatia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Monaco and Slovakia) have ratified it.

## PROGRESS

### *Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage*

The Hungarian authorities offered to host the second meeting of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage on 24 September 2011. Digital preservation and restoration of audiovisual heritage were amongst the main topics on the agenda in the cinema of the Hungarian National Film Archives in Budapest.

Mr Mladen BURIC (Croatia) was elected as the new Chair, since Ms Ildiko BERKES (Hungary), retiring, could not stand again for election. The Vice-Chair, Mr Andrius ZILNYS (Lithuania) accepted to carry on.

The European Broadcast Union, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Europe in 2011, is now also participating in the work of the EAHC as an observer.

### *Cooperation with UNESCO and the European Commission*

On 3-5 October 2011 a conference was organised in Moscow in the framework of the Russian Chairmanship by the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme with the theme: *Preservation of digital information in the information society*. The Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on the Council of Europe's policy instruments, underlining the dimension of the right to information as a basic democratic principle, and the intellectual property rights issue: "The Council of Europe contribution to the Preservation of Digital Information in the Information Society, with a focus on the *European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage*". The Moscow Declaration on Digital Information Preservation was presented to the UNESCO General Conference at its 36th Session on 1st November 2011.

Furthermore, contacts have been maintained with the Audiovisual and Media Policy Unit of the European Commission and in particular its Cinema Expert Group / Subgroup on film heritage.

### *Communication with the Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT)*

As far as communication with the members of the Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT) is concerned, the Secretariat circulated on 29 July 2011, a Questionnaire asking for information on why member States have not ratified the EAHC and what hinders them from "translating" the Convention into national law. The Questionnaire revealed that there will be more signatories to the

Convention in the near future, meaning that the Protocol will enter into force, but that there is still a need for more international co-operation and exchange on the respective practices in the field of preservation.

The Secretariat has sent the report of the first meeting of the Standing Committee and the Grid for national profiles (Strasbourg, France, 30 June 2008), the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and the report of the Second meeting of the Standing Committee on the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage to CDCULT members. Following the request of the Standing Committee members, the CDCULT delegates were asked to provide information on who is in charge of the protection of the Audiovisual Heritage in non signatory states.

A new website has been created for the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/audiovisuel/default\\_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/audiovisuel/default_EN.asp)

### *Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe*

During the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, the Serbian Presidency of the Council, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Information Society of the Republic of Serbia hosted, in partnership with cultural institutions, two expert meetings in the field of film and audiovisual heritage.

The second expert meeting was organised in Belgrade together with the Yugoslav Film Archives on 16 March 2012. It focused on the protection and safeguarding of audiovisual heritage in South East Europe. The Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on “The value of the *European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage*”.

The Conclusions of the two meetings will be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe on 20 April 2012 in Belgrade. One of the Conclusions specifically encourages member states of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage of the Council of Europe.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### *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, in cooperation with the Croatian audiovisual centre, the National Film Archive of Tirana and Copeam 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 opening conference, on 1st June 2012 in Zagreb, will gather regional decision-makers and stakeholders in the preservation of the audiovisual and cinematographic heritage field. It will launch a series of conferences, seminars and regional training actions dedicated to professionals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Serbia. The Secretariat has been invited to contribute to this conference, where members of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage will also be involved. The third meeting of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage could be organised in connection with this conference.

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.