



# STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE

**CDCULT(2010)21**

30 May 2010

**9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session**  
Strasbourg, 6 - 7 May 2010

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## Plenary Session Report

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## **A. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair of the Committee, Ms Deiana Danailova, opened the CDCULT session and delegates adopted the agenda of the 9th plenary meeting. They thanked the Chair for her opening statements to the session.

### **1. Address by the Secretary General's special representative, Mr. Stoudmann, on the Council of Europe reform process**

Mr Stoudmann, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Organisational Development and Reform, offered a talk on the reform process underway at the Council of Europe. He presented the reform as a political challenge and followed up with the administrative and financial consequences. (For the full report on Mr Stoudmann's address please see CDCULT(2010)20). Several delegations then took the floor to present their reactions and the Committee closed by thanking Mr. Stoudmann for his detailed overview of the Council of Europe reform process. The Committee noted the financial situation of the organisation and the prospect of increased financial responsibility of specialised Ministries for securing Council of Europe work programmes through voluntary contributions and Partial Agreements as well as covering the cost of their delegates to attend Steering Committee meetings.

### **2. Address by the Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport/Coordinator for intercultural dialogue and for the Anti-discrimination Campaign and welcome by the Director of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage**

The Director General followed Mr Stoudmann's comments with a view on the political dimension of future activities related to human rights, culture's contribution to open, inclusive and participative societies and intercultural dialogue as a factor of democratic stability. She spoke about the structures for financing future activities and in particular, enlarged partial agreements. Ms Battaini-Dragoni also underlined the very positive and strong co-operation with the European Union. A full report of her comments is also included in document CDCULT(2010)20.

In his address, Mr Robert Palmer, the Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, stressed the importance of clear and solidly-based orientations in the current economic climate. He gave concrete examples of ways to adjust the focus of the department's activities. His first suggestion was that cultural policy reviews focus on new priorities such as cultural rights, regulation of the media, integration, centralisation/decentralisation, etc. He stated that reports on regional programmes require further support and focus (Kyiv Initiative and the work in Kosovo). He stressed the importance of spotlighting critical policy issues such as the social implications of heritage rather than heritage itself. He also noted that the Committee should examine the role of culture and cultural institutions in the current context of the financial crisis as it affects culture, without overlooking the cultural issues of climate change that involve modifications in behaviour and traditions. Finally, he pointed out that social networking has brought fundamental socio-cultural changes and should not be left out.

As to the 2011 Priorities document, culture has been inserted in the "Democracy" pillar under the sub-heading "Promoting Democratic Governance and Stability". The budget is reduced by 7% for intergovernmental sectors. This means that creative financing solutions must be found in order to maintain activities. No activities are earmarked for discontinuation, but several will no longer be financed by the ordinary budget, meaning that the Committee of Ministers would like to see them continue but asks for alternative financing.

The European Heritage Days (EHD) is an initiative with high visibility and also a joint programme with the EU. As there is a "Joint programme reserve" that the cultural heritage sector can rely on, it would enable

the EHD to continue. Encouragement was given to delegates to make statements that can be reported back to the Committee of Ministers' GR-C rapporteur group in support of the enlarged partial agreement on Cultural Routes. Mr Palmer stated that the Council of Europe art exhibitions are important, but need alternative means of funding, e.g. on the basis of voluntary contributions. Many member states want to sustain the exhibitions. Another example is Artists for dialogue, in the context of the Baku Initiative, also entirely funded by voluntary contributions, principally from Azerbaijan.

Delegates held a first exchange of views and thanked the Director General for her comprehensive intervention, detailing potential future work strands for the CDCULT and the revised working mechanisms of Council of Europe Partial Agreements, and the Director for his outlook on programme and budgetary developments, future partnerships and resource mobilisation options.

### **3. Report by the Chair on her Chairmanship over the last year**

The Chair summarised progress made over the past two years, including her special contribution to the Committee's work that consisted of hosting an extraordinary meeting of the CDCULT Bureau in Sofia in January 2009, participation in international conferences held in 2008 and 2009 and an exchange of views with the Chair of the GT-REF.INST (Committee of Ministers Working Party on Institutional Reform) in April 2009. Furthermore, she took part, on behalf of the CDCULT, in the Committee of Experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (CAHPAH-PPL) and the European Committee for Social Cohesion.

### **4. Elections**

The Committee elected Ms Christine M. Merkel from Germany as the new CDCULT Chair and Mr David Vitali from Switzerland as Vice-Chair for a one-year term of office (renewable once); elected Ms Karitas Gunnarsdottir from Iceland and Mr Irakli Metreveli from Georgia as new Bureau members for a two-year term (renewable once) and renewed four Bureau members for another two-year term.

Mrs Battaini-Dragoni congratulated the new Chair and identified three main challenges in the year ahead. She cited steering the reform process, increasing political visibility of the CDCULT with other organisations such as the EU and the Secretary General's proposal on co-operation in Education, Culture and Youth of countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), who wish for a memorandum of understanding.

## **B. CDCULT PRIORITIES, EVALUATION AND WORKING RELATIONS**

### **5. Priority activities, Evaluation, Working Relations**

#### **5.1. Overview of implications of the Council of Europe's reform on work priorities in the context of the CDCULT's programme of activities 2010/2011 and related budgetary issues**

The Director introduced this point and proposed an exchange on the general thrust for programme activities. He shared his thoughts on the importance of attempting to streamline culture and cultural heritage activities and the need to integrate and combine several activities into one major project rather than many smaller ones. The Director pointed out that Programmes do have finite dates (e.g. 31 December 2010 for Project 434) so close scrutiny would be applied at the end of this year. The Committee thanked the Secretariat for the overview provided on future work prospects, prioritisation needs and the

budgetary situation of the Organisation demanding more flexible financing of Council of Europe activities including in the cultural field.

## **5.2. Presentation of the evaluation carried out on the Cultural Policy Review programme, the Compendium and CultureWatchEurope (Council of Europe project 2005/ DG4/ 434) and implications for the work programme 2011 onwards**

An evaluation was carried out on Project 2005/ DG4/ 434: Cultural policies and governance for diversity, dialogue, access, participation and creativity, based on a questionnaire to CDCULT delegates that was used as a basis for an independent review. The Committee welcomed the evaluation and its own active involvement in the process. It noted the results in the form of three conclusions and eighteen recommendations for enhancing cultural policy work. The evaluation underlines the importance of the Committee's cultural policy activities in the framework of the Organisation's focus on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. The Committee asked the Secretariat to complete the document in the light of the debates held and forward it to relevant programme planning and reporting bodies within the organisation to ensure adequate follow-up of the activities forming part of project 2005/DG4/434. Delegates were also invited to support the CDCULT's cultural policy work programme through voluntary contributions.

## **5.3. Presentation of the proposed programme of activities for 2011**

The Secretariat presented an overview of the programme 2011 onwards. The Committee exchanged on the draft proposal that builds on previous policy projects of the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, integrating them into a single initiative with transversal elements focused on citizen participation and providing added value. Delegates welcomed the new integrated approach as a contribution fully in line with the ongoing Council of Europe reform.

## **5.4. Working relations with the European Union following the Lisbon Treaty**

The EU Ambassador, Ms Pavan-Woolfe presented information on the working relations between the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of Culture. She made reference to the recent election of the Secretary General and the Lisbon Treaty as affecting the relationship between the two organisations and also highlighted the added value of the Council of Europe as important incentives to working together. The highlights of her comments can be found in document CDCULT(2010)20. Delegations were happy to see progress being made on co-operation between the EU and the Council of Europe. They congratulated and thanked the Ambassador for her comprehensive presentation and referred to the importance of intensified co-operation between the two organisations, including on partial agreements. The Committee also presented its interest in developing co-operation with the European Union in the cultural policy field, e.g. on cultural policy reviews and related projects.

# **C. CDCULT CULTURAL POLICY WORK PROGRAMME**

## **6. Cultural policy activities**

### **6.1. Recent developments at national level – brief reports by CDCULT members**

Document CDCULT(2010)19 summarises recent developments at national level and delegates thus refrained from an in-depth exchange on this point.

## **6.2. Cultural Policy Reviews and Analysis in Turkey, Ukraine and Malta:**

Following the new methodology of Cultural Policy Reviews that foresees a feedback report two years subsequent to the conclusion of a review exercise, the Ukrainian delegate reported on the follow-up and development in cultural policy since the finalisation of Ukraine's Cultural Policy Review in 2007. She reported that she found the process very open. In Ukraine, she stated, there is a Ministry *of* Culture and still not a Ministry *for* Culture. She said that many good developments have taken place - but the Ministry is still seen as an administrator distributing funds. A new strategic planning task force now exists in the Ministry but the overall innovative strategy is still not fully implemented. Mr Terry Sandell, rapporteur of the previous expert report on Ukraine, then spoke about the process of the review, the progress that has been made and the fact that now the right questions are being asked. Experts underestimated the Ministry of Culture's capacity for reform under the conditions of no reform being made elsewhere. He praised the honesty of the feedback report and the enormous work that went into it. There ensued a debate on this point as follows: Georgia's delegation pointed out the usefulness of cultural and cultural heritage reviews in the democratisation process. Bulgaria congratulated Ukraine on its work and underlined the possibility of having a sector-specific review. Bulgaria will ask for such a review in the area of the performing arts sector. The Austrian delegate criticized the lack of progress in Ukraine. Finland congratulated Ukraine on the follow-up to the review and finally France congratulated Ukraine on their courage.

The Committee thanked the Ukrainian authorities for their report on the follow-up given to the cultural policy review of 2007 including on recommendations made by the independent group of experts and welcomed the addition of feed-back reports to the Review methodology. They noted the postponement of the second visit to Turkey by the Council of Europe independent expert team and encouraged the Turkish Authorities to continue their dedication to the review process with an expected presentation of the exercise at the CDCULT's Plenary Session in spring 2011. Finally, delegates congratulated the Maltese Authorities on the forthcoming launch of their new cultural policy and for having invited independent Council of Europe experts to visit the country and comment on the new policy.

The Russian Federation looks forward to the update of the previous cultural policy review of Russia and to studying issues such as cultural industries, centralisation and decentralisation, religious aspects, arts education, artists and Russian culture as manifested by artists worldwide. The CDCULT also welcomed the forthcoming update of the Cultural Policy Review for the Russian Federation in the framework of the Action Plan on Culture drawn-up between the Ministry of Culture and the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe.

## **6.3. Progress reports on the Compendium and the CultureWatchEurope initiative**

The CDCULT Secretary reported on progress in the activities of the Compendium with regard to geographic and content-related enlargement of the information system as well as the recent Compendium Authors Meeting 2010. This meeting was hosted by the Swiss Government in the framework of their Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and additionally offered a hearing on Swiss cultural diversity policies and an exchange with experts on cultural rights issues. In the ensuing debate, Finland thought the recent project evaluation to be exceptionally positive and high profile, which stood in strong contradiction with the lack of funds from the Organisations' ordinary budget. This was echoed by Croatia. France was very positively impressed and made 10 000 € available to the project in 2010 as a voluntary contribution. Cyprus found that the Compendium provides concrete and substantial information on governance and cultural policy. Switzerland validated the approach of linking a Compendium authors meeting with public policy debates. Open questions were seen by delegates around the "open Compendium", i.e. the question of Compendium methodology inspiring initiatives by other regional bodies or institutions on setting up similar systems. Belgium pointed out that the Council of

Europe ought to work more explicitly on cultural rights issues. This was echoed by Greece and the Russian Federation, the latter asking the respective draft decision to be adapted in this light. Germany and Austria regretted that they had no funds to be made available to the project in 2010. Azerbaijan underlined the project's capacities in terms of content, networking and comparative work and several other delegations hinted at the project's potential in addressing the policy concerns of governments and other international bodies. The Director General stated her concern with regard to the use of the Compendium by other external partners and suggested the possible generation of a legal basis (e.g. in the form of a memorandum of understanding). She also suggested that the CDCULT work more explicitly on cultural rights.

The Committee finally requested its Bureau to follow-up closely on possible geographic expansion of the information system. It thanked the Swiss Government for having hosted the Compendium 2010 Authors meeting and invited the Secretariat to undertake a mapping of previous and ongoing work, including that of other International Organisations, on cultural rights, with a view to possibly setting-up a think-tank. It took note of the development of the Compendium's resource strategy and called upon CDCULT members to make voluntary contributions to the project in 2010, in line with the Committee's 2009 decisions on resource mobilisation. The CDCULT underlined the importance of a fully operational, well resourced Compendium project also as a key component of "CultureWatchEurope".

CultureWatchEurope (CWE) progress and activities were presented by the CDCULT Secretary with additional information given by the Director on the forthcoming Conference. In the debate, the Polish delegation was happy to see the close co-operation between the Council of Europe and Poland on the 2010 conference and found the background papers very concrete. Finland felt that CWE was on the right track and that the label had been taken up. The new integrated project of the Directorate was proof of the appreciation of the CWE concept. Austria greatly appreciated the Krakow book, which was a result of the first CWE Conference held in 2009 (see below). The Chair asked for details about the CWE Conference 2010 theme and EU concerns that have arisen in this respect. The Director explained the background issues as far as he understood them. Cyprus proposed as a possible new title: "From cultural policy to cultural governance".

The Committee welcomed the overall progress made on CultureWatchEurope and the results of the first conference on "Culture and Development 20 Years after the Fall of Communism in Europe" (Krakow, 4- 6 June 2009), the follow-up given by the EUNIC conference on "Breaking down Barriers" (28 October 2009) and noted the conclusions derived with a view to possible follow-up at national level and as input to the CWE conference 2010. It also welcomed the progress achieved on preparing the forthcoming CultureWatchEurope conference on "Rethinking Cultural Policy – Implementing a New Paradigm" (*working title*) with special focus on the impact of the financial crisis regarding culture, including an analysis of the role of the state as a substantial cultural provider, new multi-stakeholder partnerships and new management models. CDCULT members were invited to support the CultureWatchEurope initiative by asking member states to make voluntary contributions available for the CWE access portal, joint search engine, and 2010 conference.

#### **6.4. Film policies**

The Secretariat presented the project of reviewing the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production. Austria suggested that the Secretariat should contact relevant bodies in the member States before going further with such a project. Bulgaria interjected that the EU has begun work on co-production issues (forthcoming Media Mundus activity). The absence of a monitoring mechanism within the Convention was felt a serious shortcoming by Greece and other delegations, and the impact of New Technologies also suggested a revision of the Convention. Some delegates were not ready to take any decision during the plenary session; others did not want to open up the Convention to non-European countries. Georgia proposed to undertake an expert study on the need for revising the Convention.

Germany agreed with Greece that the Convention should be revised after fifteen years and that member States should be very closely involved in the process, of which more details were required, including a budget. Denmark thought it better to leave the decision on the need for a possible revision to national film bodies. The Committee finally agreed to study the need, feasibility and cost of a review of the European Convention on Cinematographic co-production without prejudice to its outcome and asked the Secretariat to provide a detailed roadmap for the process including the legal implications and to inform the Committee regularly on progress made.

## **D. CDCULT INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE WORK PROGRAMME**

### **7. Activities related to Intercultural Dialogue – Progress reports on ongoing projects:**

#### **– Intercultural Cities**

Intercultural cities is about adding a cultural dimension to the efforts made by cities to integrate diverse communities. Its underlying thesis is that cities can use diversity as a resource if they manage it better, if they become “culturally competent” and adapt their policies, governance mechanisms and services to the need and cultural specificities of diverse populations. This means also developing a new discourse, addressing perceptions of the other and relationships between cultures as a central element of the integration effort. The intercultural integration model helps cities to create a culture of diversity – a culture where diversity is celebrated as a resource, governance mechanisms are able to adequately manage cultural conflict and public authorities and services command sufficient cultural competence to be able to adapt to the needs of diverse populations.

The Intercultural cities pilot developed and tested an approach to integration which helps cities realise the diversity advantage by putting in place intercultural strategies across policy fields and governance levels, in partnership with all stakeholders, including media.

The pilot also resulted in a set of tools to help review and adapt city policies to the requirements of intercultural integration, measure progress and get support and ideas from other cities across the world which share the same objectives.

The intercultural cities learning community will be enlarged from 2011 with a new set of 11 cities which will work with the current members of the networks to apply and further develop the intercultural integration model.

The Committee noted with strong satisfaction the achievements of the Intercultural cities pilot project and the great interest it has raised with local authorities across Europe and beyond. It gave its full support to the enlargement of the Intercultural cities learning community, to be partly funded by contributions from cities or other sources. Delegates encouraged the further development of the Intercultural cities knowledge base and toolbox through co-operation with relevant research organisations. They welcomed the continuous interest of the European Commission in this programme and looks forward to the conclusion of a new joint action from 2011. Finally the Committee invited its members to widely distribute information about Intercultural cities to appropriate national and local organisations and institutions.

#### **– Council of Europe Cultural Routes: decisions on the certification and labelling of new Routes and the Building a Partial Agreement**

With regard to the certification and labelling of new Routes, the Committee thanked the authorities of Greece and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Institute of Cultural Routes for the excellent organisation of the Delphi Forum held on 17-18 April 2010. It took note of the Charter presented in Delphi which points out the important future challenges for cultural routes, in particular the need to

develop the tools and products for a cultural, social and ethical tourism, the promotion of heritage and the local and regional development. The Forum clearly demonstrated the transversal impact of culture in other aspects of society. Delegates underlined the need for a special effort to ensure the promotion and adequate financing of cultural routes, welcomed the support of the European Commission and the European Parliament for the Council of Europe Cultural Routes programme and called for a stronger co-operation between these institutions and the Council of Europe in the field of cultural routes and cultural tourism. The CDCULT thanked the European Institute of Cultural Routes for its competent work and the Luxembourg authorities for the major financial support provided to the Institute. It renewed its confidence in its representatives in the Advisory Committee and invited the Committee of Ministers to renew the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Routes for the transitional period preceding the possible setting up of a Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, noting that the meeting of the Committee will need to be financed through voluntary contributions. The CDCULT granted the certification "Council of Europe Cultural Route" to five new routes: the Route of Cistercian abbeys, the Route of European cemeteries, the Route of St. Olav, the European Route of thermal heritage, and the Route of Prehistoric rupestal art. It approved the official cultural route label for two networks and took note of the positive evolution of two routes. The Committee decided to grant an additional year for the finalisation of the approval procedure for twelve routes and decided to keep the Route of the Vikings on standby awaiting a new network. The label "Council of Europe Cultural Route" was withdrawn from the Architecture without Frontiers route at their own request.

With regard to building an enlarged partial agreement on Cultural Routes, and following debates many delegations supported this initiative, underlining the flexibility and sustainability offered by such an arrangement. The Committee also discussed the notion of cultural tourism (creative economy) for the cultural routes as well as the relationship between the EU's cultural heritage label and the Council of Europe cultural routes. In her intervention, the Director General underlined that there was no duplication of work with the European Heritage label and that she was ensuring co-ordination on this subject at the highest level. The Committee then concluded its debate by endorsing the proposal and encouraging the Secretariat to pursue negotiations for the creation of an Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA). It called upon CDCULT members to make every effort to ensure that their respective countries join the EPA and recalled the importance of taking into account the Committee of Ministers' Resolution (2007)12 on the definition of a Cultural Route. Delegates invited the Secretariat to provide an updated information document on the creation of the EPA in view of preparation at national level for the discussions at the GR-C meeting on 8 June, including information on the estimated cost of accession for individual member states as well as details on the distinction between the cultural route profile and the Cultural Heritage label.

### **– Council of Europe Art Exhibitions and Cultural Events**

The Secretariat reported on the progress achieved in preparing the forthcoming exhibition "Art since 1945". Following the report, the delegate from Georgia asked how it was possible to avoid representing the latest war on European soil. The Slovak Republic's delegation expressed their wish to participate in the project and asked for details about the number of places where the exhibition will be shown. Other delegate's questions included a request for further details on organisational and financial aspects of the exhibition, followed by the Russian Federation presenting its wish to become strongly involved in the exhibition. Henry Meyric Hughes, general coordinator of the "Art since 1945" exhibition, was present and explained that the concept will not work chronologically but thematically. It was important for the exhibition to inspire questions from the visitor rather than to provide quick and pat replies. The Director underlined that the Art Exhibitions were only taking up those themes with close ties to Council of Europe values and were financed solely by voluntary contributions with no bearing on the ordinary budget of the Organisation. In conclusion, the Committee noted progress in the preparations for the "Art since 1945" exhibition and encouraged further negotiations with museums and Ministries in view of the loan's

transport and insurance costs. It called upon CDCULT members to provide voluntary contributions for the implementation, and any other relevant assistance, to ensure the realisation of the exhibitions.

### **– Artists for Dialogue**

The Committee exchanged on and took note of the Artists for Dialogue progress report. It encouraged the Secretariat to pursue the implementation of the Initiative as envisaged. It took note of the three suggested pilot projects and invited member States to support these. Finally, it thanked the authorities of Azerbaijan for their generous support to the Artists for Dialogue Initiative to date.

## **E. PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE CDCULT**

### **8. Social Cohesion draft Recommendation "Intercultural competences in social services"**

Ms Gilda Farrell from the Directorate General of Social Cohesion presented the draft Recommendation "Intercultural competences in social services" prepared by the European Committee for Social Cohesion" (CDCS). The CDCS had proposed to liaise with the CDCULT on the Recommendation text and possibly issue it as a joint work. The CDCULT noted this with interest and expressed its readiness to comment on the draft recommendation by 10 June 2010. It also agreed to launch the Recommendation as a joint work by the CDCS and the CDCULT.

### **9. Information on the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue 2011 – Baku, Azerbaijan; presented by the Delegate from Azerbaijan**

Following the presentation of this activity by the Azerbaijani delegate, the Committee noted with interest the envisaged World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, to take place in Baku in April 2011. The CDCULT recognised that the initiative was being supported by UNESCO, the Alliance of Civilizations and ISESCO and requested further information on the specific themes to be addressed and on progress made in planning this important event.

### **10. Information on an initiative by the Russian Authorities to create a Council of Europe Delphic Games (Professional Art) presented by the delegate from the Russian Federation**

The Committee briefly discussed the proposal to create a Council of Europe Delphic Games. However, lacking more substantial information by initiators from the Russian Federation and the authorities, it decided to withdraw the item concerning the Delphic Games for the time being. Further clarification of the activity by the organisers would be desirable in view of the preparation of a CDCULT decision.

### **11. Statement on the situation of performing artists by the International Federation of Musicians (FIM)**

The Secretariat received a statement on the situation of performing artists by the International Federation of Musicians (FIM) for submission to the CDCULT. The Committee took note with interest of this draft resolution on the recognition of the basic rights of performing artists.

### **12. Preparations for the 9th Meeting of the CDCULT Bureau (Fall 2010)**

The Committee decided to agree on the dates of the autumn session of the Bureau of CDCULT at a later moment.

**13. Any other business**

The Russian delegation proposed to hold a Conference of Ministers in 2012 on a theme related to cultural rights. The Committee took note of this proposal and suggested that the Bureau of CDCULT further elaborate on it, based on the Council of Europe requirements for such conferences, outcome of the forthcoming mapping exercise (see decision under 6.3.) and in co-operation with the Russian Federation.

**F. ADOPTION OF THE LIST OF DECISIONS AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

The Committee decided to adopt the list of decisions by written procedure, following its preparation by the Secretariat and accord by the delegates.