



## STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE

CDCULT-BU(2009)16

30 December 2009

**8<sup>th</sup> CDCULT Bureau Meeting**  
Strasbourg, 9 - 10 December 2009

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### Meeting Report

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## **1. Opening and Introduction to the Bureau Meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, welcoming delegates to the 8<sup>th</sup> gathering of the Bureau of the CDCULT. The agenda for the session was approved with adaptations to move Intercultural Cities and Cultural Routes progress reports to the morning of the first day and to include the Chair of CultureWatchEurope to the joint afternoon session with CDPATEP. It was noted that three Bureau members were absent due to the Azerbaijani Parliamentary budget sessions (Mamedaliyeva), the five-day UNESCO assembly in Paris (Merkel) and work on the upcoming Spanish EU Presidency (Lopez-Conejos). The Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, opened the session by giving an overview of recent developments at the Council of Europe. He noted that the new Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland (Norway), took office on 29 September 2009 and that the Programme and Budget 2010 was recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers. The new budget includes “0” real growth, with the priorities remaining the Court of Human Rights and meeting salary adjustments. The programme of activities budget was cut by 5 to 6 percent, applied equally to all entities, with an additional 5% cut to missions and consultancy contracts. The Director underlined that this trend will most likely be continued in forthcoming years. Future action will increasingly have to be financed through extra-budgetary resources, such as voluntary contributions, or via Joint Programmes with the European Union.

With a number of projects overseen by CDCULT and CDPATEP coming to an end in December 2010, evaluations are to be carried out in spring 2010 for preliminary discussion at the Steering Committee Plenary Sessions in May. As for the CDCULT, this concerns project 434 with its long-term activities of Cultural Policy Review, Compendium and CultureWatchEurope.

A first round of exchanges led to a strong statement by delegates underlining that culture was indeed political, fully inline with and making a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Third Summit Priorities. Specifically the work on cultural policies, intercultural dialogue and regional co-operation were cited as examples of successful European cultural co-operation. The new Secretary General has not set out new priorities as of yet. Delegates also underlined the importance of budgetary transparency to fully benefit from an in-depth overview. The Bureau thanked the Chair and the Director for their opening statements and turned to the next agenda item.

## **2. Possible Update of the European Cultural Convention of 1954**

Setting out the main arguments for the timeliness of a possible revision of the European Cultural Convention (ECC) as presented in document CDCULT-BU(2009)03rev, the Director highlighted the challenges of such an undertaking, following-up on a previous exchange by the CDCULT Plenary in May 2009. An initial debate showed consensus on the ongoing validity of the ECC and its principles as a basic instrument for European cultural co-operation, whilst mechanisms might possibly profit from an update. The Bureau expressed its general interest in pursuing reflection on the desirability of a new standard setting text and was interested in pursuing this at the 2010 CDCULT Plenary Session, on the basis of a revised document. This document would set out the potential and the technicalities of generating an additional instrument, study all legal implications and foresee co-operation between the CDCULT and other relevant Steering Committees. A review of the current and potential responsibility of relevant organisations, including the European Commission in areas covered by the European Cultural Convention, would also be most useful in defining the Council of Europe’s optimal role in future actions governed by the ECC. The Bureau was clear that an open, future-oriented and fully operational framework for cultural co-operation, reflecting the Council of Europe’s standards and values and addressing the needs for intercultural dialogue in an increasingly interdependent world, was of utmost importance.

## JOINT SESSION CDCULT / CDPATEP

The joint session of the Bureaux of CDCULT and CDPATEP was opened by the Committee Chairs, who presented their Committee's key activities for 2009-2010 as well as medium term prospects and future work. This was followed by a presentation of the new Culture Directorate web site by the Information Manager of the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage. The new site met with unanimous approval.

The Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport; General Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue and the Anti-Discrimination Campaign, Ms Battaini-Dragoni, gave an overview of the latest reform initiatives at the Council of Europe on the presentation of the budget, staff policies and structures. She also provided details of the current history of staff ratios to programme expenses, stating that in 2010, the ratio will be 43% staff costs and 47% programme costs. This is one of the best ratios in the Council of Europe. Overall, there are 249 DG IV staff, with 57 working on Partial Agreements, 70 staff are on temporary contracts and 70 are working in Council of Europe field offices. The Bureaux thanked the Director General for her detailed presentation of the resource situation at DG IV level.

A short debate on strategies for facing ongoing budgetary cuts took place with delegates underlining the need to create synergies (e.g. with PACE) and enhance communication at the level of the member states, i.e. between Foreign and Specialised Ministries.

Turning to the programme activities of common interest to both Committees, the Director General spoke on the issue of updating the European Cultural Convention and underlined the usefulness of the ECC as a framework for co-operation that would not necessarily require an update (e.g. Kazakhstan very recently acceded as a new signatory state). At a moment when the impact of the Lisbon Treaty is not yet fully understood, entering a debate on competences and mandates is not advisable. However, the themes of globalisation, migration and intercultural dialogue would obviously remain ongoing concerns for the Organisation. The Bureaux thanked the Director General for her constructive intervention on this issue and agreed that the ECC, being an excellent instrument, should not necessarily be revised, whilst a new instrument (Framework Convention or other tool) could orient relations and co-operation with neighbouring regions in the future. The Bureaux also thanked the Director General for her proposal to hold a meeting of DG IV Committee Chairs in early 2010, to further exchange on the Secretary General's possible new priorities, reform proposals and their implications, and the issue of updating the ECC or the generation of another new tool to orient future co-operation with regions beyond Europe.

The Bureaux then heard a presentation by the Chair of the CultureWatchEurope (CWE) Task Force, Mr Kimmo Aulake, who set out overall achievements on this initiative over the past months. Whilst noting this with interest, CDPATEP delegates, who had not been able to acquaint themselves with the available documents before the joint session, preferred to postpone the debate to the Plenary Session in May, when the Secretariat would present CWE in more detail and also provide information on latest developments of the Cultural Policy Review Programme. A statement was made by the Chair of the CDPATEP on the term and notion of the vocabulary: "alert", which he suggested to replace in the framework of CultureWatchEurope to avoid a possible negative interpretation by governments. He also insisted on the difference in cultural heritage's working process on conventions as opposed to the style and nature of cultural policy work, an attitude that was questioned by the Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, given the overriding political concerns motivating the programme of activities overseen by both Committees as well as the modern notion of heritage, as manifested in the recent Faro Convention. The Secretariat stressed the timeliness of the CWE initiative, given the possible further streamlining of the Council of Europe based on its core principals.

The Secretariat made a presentation on the Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe and the Bureaux expressed their interest in co-operating more closely in the future on this activity. Further discussions on this item should take place at the CDPATEP Plenary session.

Time was too short to begin discussions on the Kyiv Initiative and the possible heritage dimension of Intercultural Cities. The Bureaux therefore decided to postpone the debate of these issues, as well as more in-depth debates on co-operation methods to forthcoming joint meetings, e.g., a meeting of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs prior to the Committee's Plenary sessions in 2010. The Bureaux also underlined that a focused agenda and early availability of relevant documents was key to the success of further joint meetings of the Bureaux.

### **3. Programme and Budget Planning for 2010 onwards, working methods, CDCULT replies to PACE and Congress recommendations, progress reports**

#### ***Programme and Budget Planning***

On the basis of document CDCULT-BU(2009)07rev (Financial Overview of funds available for activities overseen by the CDCULT in 2009 and in 2010), the Bureau of the CDCULT held discussions on budgetary issues and thanked the Secretariat for the overview table on resources available as of 9 December for 2010. It recognised that additional voluntary contributions would be received in the course of 2010. The Bureau was grateful for the Director's detailed presentation of the budgetary processes and methods applied at the Council of Europe, which involved shifting of budgetary responsibilities from Steering Committees to the Committee of Ministers. At the occasion of the forthcoming Plenary Session of the CDCULT, the Secretariat should provide an updated overview table on resources for activities under the responsibility of the Committee. At the same time, the Bureau realised that an in-depth debate on the budget was probably unnecessary, given the Committee's lack of decisionmaking power in this respect. The Bureau also voiced the opinion that without executive power, Committee meetings were likely to be regarded as "social clubs", therefore member states would not send senior experts to participate. A short debate ensued on action priorities and possible finalisation of certain projects, that were not considered either key activities nor flagship projects. Shifting budgets among projects was of limited value according to the Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, who also suggested that the activities of the Steering Committees were not strictly representing the major debates of our day. Finally, a question was raised regarding the number of staff in the cultural sector as presented by the Director General on the previous day (n=26), whilst there were only two A-grades working in the cultural policy sector.

#### ***Working Methods***

The Bureau exchanged on ways of improving working methods based on exchanges at the 2009 Plenary session and the study by the GT.REF-INST working party on Council of Europe Committees. It was decided to implement the list of ten actions proposed for enhancing the Committee's working methods as set out in document CDCULT-BU(2009)05 and the Bureau asked the Secretariat to inform all CDCULT delegates accordingly. It also decided to ask CDCULT delegates to provide written statements on recent political developments prior to the Plenary sessions and to disseminate these via the Council of Europe web site preceding the session. Finally, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare the agenda for the 2010 CDCULT Plenary reflecting these decisions and setting aside time for exchange on key strategic and budgetary issues, which may be influenced by Committee of Ministers decisions related to the Council of Europe reform process. Bureau

members proposed a meeting of Directors General for Culture from member states' Ministries of Culture as a useful initiative, or at the occasion of the new Secretary General's visits to capitals of member states, special talks on culture to reinforce the cultural sector's standing.

### ***CDCULT reply to Recommendations by PACE and the Congress***

Following a short presentation, the Bureau approved of the draft CDCULT reply to Congress Recommendation 275 of 2009 on "Creative cities – managing the cultural activity of cities" and asked the Secretariat to ensure follow-up with Council of Europe bodies. It also approved of the draft reply to PACE Recommendation 1884 of 2009 on "Cultural education: the promotion of culture, creativity and intercultural understanding through education" by written procedure following the Bureau meeting and again asked the Secretariat to ensure appropriate follow-up.

### ***Progress reports on CDCULT activities***

#### *Compendium*

Regarding the Compendium's developments (see also CDCULT-BU(2009)02add: Compendium Project Development and Mobilisation of Resources), the Bureau noted recent progress made and welcomed the Compendium's thematic and functional developments of 2009. It noted the promising prospects following the endorsement of the Compendium financial strategy geared to increase voluntary contributions by member states, and encouraged all member states to consider contributions for 2010 in response to letters sent by the Secretariat in autumn 2009. The Secretariat thanked Finland, Croatia and the Slovak Republic for recent contributions to the project. Discussing the forthcoming evaluation of project 434 including the Compendium, the Bureau welcomed this opportunity to underline the project's important contribution to evidence-based cultural policy making, e.g. development of policy strategies and good practice exchange. The Director underlined that the Compendium will be evaluated not on the question of its value, but on how it can contribute to the core values of the Council of Europe. The Bureau agreed to an evaluation based on three elements: A questionnaire/survey with policy makers (CDCULT delegates) specifying the usefulness and impact of project 434, an independent expert evaluation and a summary of mainly quantitative findings as compiled through user statistics *et al.* over the past years. The Bureau underlined the Compendium's special nature as a truly Europe-wide project with 45 participating member states and invited all delegates to actively take part in the evaluation exercise planned in early 2010. The Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage shared his view that the Compendium could be rebranded, turned into a Partial Agreement and thereby possibly attract EU support.

#### *Intercultural Cities*

Following the presentation and exchange based on document CDCULT-BU(2009)04 (Intercultural cities: a policy innovation network for the management of diversity), the Bureau noted with satisfaction the proposed follow-up to the pilot phase of the Intercultural Cities programme and recommended that CDCULT approves the proposal as part of the 2011 programme of activities. The Bureau underlined that expansion of the project must be carefully planned to maintain its continued success. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to seek enhanced partnerships with the European Commission and other organisations in order to strengthen the financial and expert base for the programme. It approved in principle the opening of the programme to cities outside Europe in the spirit of the Declaration of the

Baku Conference of Ministers of Culture, December 2008. The Bureau called upon CDCULT members to hold consultations at national level for the identification of cities which would be candidates to participate in the programme, as well as possible sources of funding to support their participation.

### *CultureWatchEurope (CWE)*

Following presentation by the Secretariat, based on document CDCULT-BU(2009)06 (Progress Report on CultureWatchEurope (CWE) and the creation of a joint access portal), the Bureau noted progress achieved on the creation of a joint access portal for CultureWatchEurope linking the Compendium, HEREIN and the European Audiovisual Observatory and the forthcoming launch in 2010. It also appreciated the results of the CultureWatchEurope 2009 conference on "Culture and Development 20 Years after the Fall of Communism in Europe" (Krakow, 4-6 June 2009) and the conference by EUNIC on "Breaking down Barriers" (28 October 2009) and asked the Secretariat to forward the conclusions derived from these events to all delegates with a view to follow-up at national level and debate at the CDCULT 2010 Plenary session on possible additional action.

The Bureau then exchanged on the need to further clarify the CultureWatchEurope approach including partners and enlarged partnership concepts, users and stakeholders, its added value and working mechanisms with Council of Europe and civil society partners, and especially, by producing examples on the alert function. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to produce an easily accessible CWE brief, setting out functions and a mission statement, target groups and partnership details. It also proposed that the CWE Task Force hold a meeting prior to the CDCULT Plenary 2010 to elaborate further on the "alert function" of CWE. It would be important to make the knowledge acquired by the Council of Europe in the cultural field available on the website, to include the UNESCO Convention and possible works by the Council of Europe in the follow-up given at European level. Alerts should actually be based on Council of Europe standards. The Bureau then committed to support CultureWatchEurope and the development of its activities such as the access portal, joint search engine or the 2010 conference (see below) by recommending to CDCULT delegates to offer voluntary contributions.

As for the CWE Conference 2010 (see also CDCULT-BU(2009)10), the Bureau approved the first draft outline of the event dealing with the financial crisis regarding culture, reflecting the priorities set out by the Bureau at its extraordinary meeting in 2009, and including: the role of the state as a substantial cultural provider, new multi-stakeholder partnerships, new management models and new cultural policy paradigms. It asked the Secretariat to keep the CDCULT informed of the progress made on the conference preparations and to invite policy makers via CDCULT delegates to achieve widespread participation. The Bureau suggested to invite member states to support this key event by means of targeted voluntary contributions.

### *Cultural Policy Reviews*

The Bureau noted with interest the progress report on the Cultural Policy Reviews as outlined in document CDCULT-BU(2009)09rev. It was pleased to learn about the successful first visit of the Council of Europe expert team to Turkey in November 2009 and thanked the Turkish Authorities for their commitment to the review process. A second visit is planned in spring 2010 to cover the Eastern section of the country. The Bureau expressed its encouragement for a timely completion of the exercise with a presentation of the report at the CDCULT's Plenary Session in spring 2011.

The possibility of a forthcoming update of the Cultural Policy Review for the Russian Federation as part of the Framework Agreement with the Russian Federation's Ministry of Culture was approved by the Bureau. The Director proposed specific methodological adaptations for this exercise given the size of the Russian Federation, i.e., a geographical or thematic focus.

### *Cultural Routes*

Following a presentation of the progress achieved on the Cultural Routes Programme, based on document CDCULT-BU(2009)11 (Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe - progress report), the Bureau held a short debate on the necessity of the Council of Europe's association with this project, given activities by UNESCO and most recently, ICOMOS. The Bureau then thanked the Government of Slovenia for their support to the recent launch of the European Route of Roma Culture and Heritage and asked the Secretariat to implement the activities of the Cultural Routes programme as envisaged, keeping the Committee informed of major developments.

### *Art Exhibitions*

Following a presentation of the activity's progress (see also CDCULT-BU(2009)12: XXXth Council of Europe Exhibition: 'Art after 1945'), the Bureau approved of developments on the exhibition 'Art after 1945' and the major contribution by the German Historical Museum in Berlin for the planned exhibition 'Crisis of Reason' (*working title*) to be organised from October 2012 to February 2013. It asked the Secretariat to keep the Committee informed on its advancement and to report back in more detail on the "Art after 1945" Exhibition at the Plenary Session 2010.

### *Artists for Dialogue and World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue*

The Bureau took note of the Artists for Dialogue progress report (CDCULT-BU(2009)13) and thanked the Government of Azerbaijan for the support given to this initiative. It recommended that the next steps towards further development and implementation of the Artists for Dialogue initiative will be realised in the following months and invited the Secretariat to report back to the Committee at its Plenary session in May 2010.

Subsequently, the Bureau also discussed the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue planned by the Government of Azerbaijan for 2011 (see also CDCULT-BU (2009)14). It took note with interest of the event to be held in Baku, and expressed its view that the Alliance of Civilisations and UNESCO should be the leading partners in this undertaking, given its global scope and ambition. The Bureau welcomed further information and exchange on this initiative at the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of the Plenary Session.

## **4. Preparation of future meetings**

The Bureau welcomed the possibility of holding an extraordinary meeting of the CDCULT Bureau in March 2010 in Sofia, decided to hold the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the CDCULT on 6-7 May 2010 and asked the Secretariat to inform all delegates as soon as possible. It was recalled that three new Bureau members needed to be elected at this occasion, replacing delegates whose terms of office would come to an end in spring 2010.