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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE  
(CDCPP)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS ON THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL  
HERITAGE STRATEGY FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

For adoption

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the  
Directorate of Democratic Governance  
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

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## Introduction

The document below (see Appendix) reproduces the preliminary draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the European cultural heritage strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Strategy itself follows on from the Namur Declaration, adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Cultural Heritage, meeting in Namur (Belgium) on 23 and 24 April 2015, at their 6<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference.

The Strategy was drawn up in the course of five meetings of experts and examined by the Bureau of the CDCPP on two occasions. Its final version is set out in document CDCPP(2016)10 Part 2.

In order to present the Strategy to member states, it was decided at the Namur Conference that it would be appropriate to have a Committee of Ministers recommendation. This recommendation is set out in the Appendix.

Implementation of the Strategy requires member states (and non-member states, parties to the European Cultural Convention, as appropriate) to adopt a number of measures or practices to achieve what is recommended. In addition, there are a number of support and assistance actions which member states, the CDCPP and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe could undertake.

These actions could include:

- use by member states of the HEREIN system to exchange information, experience and examples of national and local good practices,
- the creation of an ad hoc platform which could submit an annual report to the CDCPP
- monitoring by the CDCPP which could lead to regular updates, for example every five years
- enhanced dialogue with the other relevant intergovernmental organisations (UNESCO, European Union), other Council of Europe bodies and the relevant international non-governmental organisations, in particular those working with the CDCPP,
- the organisation by the Secretariat of technical assistance missions and peer reviews at the request of states
- the regular updating and online publication of the compilation of good practices set out in Appendix B to the Strategy.

These measures – and/or others possibly suggested by delegations on the CDCPP – could be validated by the CDCPP and subsequently decided upon by the Committee of Ministers, supplementing the recommendation strictly speaking. The latter is addressed to member states whereas the support measures would possibly be for the Council of Europe to take and implement by means of its intergovernmental co-operation bodies (CDCPP) or channels for information and sharing of experiences (HEREIN).

### Action required

The CDCPP is invited to examine, revise if necessary and adopt the preliminary draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states set out in the appendix to this document.

The CDCPP is also invited to identify and propose, for adoption by the Committee of Ministers, the Strategy 21 support measures and to specify the role it intends to play in this process.

## APPENDIX

Preliminary draft  
recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States  
on the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued, in particular, through joint action in the field of culture and cultural heritage,

a. having regard to the pioneering work of the Council of Europe in the field of cultural heritage, and in particular the European Heritage Year organised in 1975 and concluded with the Charter of Amsterdam, which led to growing awareness at European level and the adoption of integrated heritage policies in all member states,

b. considering the irreplaceable contribution of heritage experts that is reflected in many conventions whose implementation and follow up is the joint task of the Council of Europe and all the stakeholders

- the European cultural convention, signed in Paris on 19 December 1954,
- the Convention for the safeguard of the architectural heritage of Europe, signed in Granada on 3 October 1985,
- the European convention for the protection of the archaeological heritage (revised), signed in La Valletta on 16 January 1992,
- the European Landscape convention, signed in Florence on 20 October 2000,
- the Council of Europe Framework convention on the value of cultural heritage for society, signed in Faro on 27 October 2015,

c. stressing the contribution of the said conventions to the setting up of a fundamental reference framework for national policies in the field of cultural heritage,

d. convinced that the protection, conservation, promotion and enhancement of the cultural heritage help build more inclusive and fairer societies, based on the principles that constitute the common legacy of the peoples of Europe,

e. convinced that heritage policies contribute to improving the living environment and the quality of life of Europeans, and have a role in strengthening the social fabric and economic well-being,

- f. emphasising that the management of the cultural heritage with full regard for the principles of democracy and human rights is a challenge for all societies throughout Europe, and indeed worldwide, and that a European approach can help strengthen the coherence and efficacy of the measures to be adopted at the level of each Member State,
- g. resolved to provide a follow-up to the Namur Declaration adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Cultural Heritage at their 6<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference (Namur, 23 and 24 April 2015),
- h. aware of the decisive contribution of other International Organisations in particular UNESCO to the protection, conservation, promotion and enhancement of heritage
- i. noting the cultural heritage fully belongs in culture and that both are confronted with common challenges
- j. considering that budgetary and human resources both at the European and some member States' levels are increasingly inadequate to ensure the conservation and the restoration of the European heritage so that it can be transmitted as a legacy to future generations
- k. having regard to the European heritage strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, drawn up on the basis of the conclusions of the European ministers by the European committee on culture, heritage and landscape (CDCPP), and acknowledging its relevance and value for all member states and for non-member states, parties to the European Cultural Convention,
- l. Noting that one of the main features of the Strategy is access to practice and concrete experience in member States from which other States may draw inspiration so that the implementation of the Strategy may be eased,
- l. Recommends that the governments of member states
  - i. embrace and implement the Strategy appended to this recommendation, at the appropriate governance levels, in compliance with their applicable legal provisions and practice
  - ii. publicise the Strategy widely among the stakeholders working in the field, associations and civil society, and ask them to play an active part in promoting the effective implementation of the Strategy and the achievement of its objectives
  - iii. draw on, where appropriate, the examples of best practice recorded and updated in the HEREIN system
  - iv. ensure the follow up to the evaluation process which is an integral component of the Strategy and its implementation

II. Invites the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, non-members of the Council of Europe, to become aware of the Strategy and embrace it, in compliance with their own legal modalities and practice,

III. Invites the European Union to join the Strategy and contribute to it in particular by seizing the opportunity offered by the European Heritage Year 2018 to promote its implementation.