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Item 3 of the agenda

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

GENERAL QUESTIONS, UPDATES ON WORKING METHODS AND THEMATIC SESSIONS:

- **PREPARATION OF A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION TO MEMBER STATES**
- **AN INTEGRATED CULTURE / NATURE STRATEGY OFFERING PRINCIPLES FOR INSPIRED POLICY MAKING**
- **RECOMMENDATION No. R(2000)13 ON A EUROPEAN POLICY ON ACCESS TO ARCHIVES (INVITATION TO PREPARE AN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT)**

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

Background

At its 9th plenary meeting in November 2020, the Committee held three thematic sessions: “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic”, “AI and culture, creativity and cultural heritage” and “Climate change and sustainable development”. It expressed its appreciation for the presentations by invited experts and related statements by delegates and observers on how the challenges can be addressed - including by Council of Europe activities and tools.

While the thematic sessions focused on their specific topics and included, for example, a detailed analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector, lines of convergence appeared during the exchanges on the three themes, drawing conclusions from multiple crises.

Culture as a "first necessity investment", would indeed drive transformation in a comprehensive perspective, as Council of Europe expert, Philippe Kern expressed¹. The multidimensional impact of cultural investment (economic, territorial and social)² already reflects in a number of Council of Europe projects and standards (European Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes; European Landscape Convention, Faro Convention work, Strategy 21, to name but a few). However, a dedicated text may give further impetus to these works and communicate the Council of Europe's vision at a time when value-based social change – addressing global challenges together and through innovation and creation – becomes unavoidable.

Next steps

The debate led to a proposal to prepare a Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation to member States on the essential role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address the global crisis (democracy, economy, health, climate, social), with special consideration of the impact of AI in these areas, as reflected in the list of decisions.³

Presentations and debates also elucidated the close interrelations between cultural and natural heritage interventions, including action geared at protection, building resilience and awareness-raising. Given the Council of Europe's numerous standards in the cultural, heritage and nature field, a list of principles for inspired policy making could be drawn from these and combined into an integrated culture/nature strategy.

The Bureau of the CDCPP further discussed these future works at online meetings in March. Members of the Bureau volunteered to prepare first draft texts for further comment and consideration by the CDCPP. In this process, initial written consultations will be held from summer to prepare the texts as far as possible for a final debate that will be organised during the CDCPP's autumn plenary session.

In its work, the Bureau will consider all the relevant Council of Europe tools and strategies addressing, *inter alia*, the climate emergency and working towards the SDGs, as well as links to work by other organisations in view of creating best possible synergies.

On 31 March, in reply to a question by a Parliamentarian on access to archives, the Committee of Ministers asked the CDCPP to consider conducting a study on the implementation of Recommendation No. R(2000)13 on a European Policy on Access to Archives. The Secretariat suggests preparing a questionnaire to delegates in this respect, involving an expert on European policy on access to archives in this work.

¹ [Link to Philippe Kern's presentation at the CDCPP plenary session of November 2020.](#)

² Economic contribution (growing digital and creative economy), territorial attractiveness (investment, talent, tourism), social cohesion (mutual understanding, empathy, well-being, empowerment).

³ See also the [report of the 9th CDCPP plenary session of November 2020.](#)

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the proposal by the Bureau of the CDCPP to prepare a new draft recommendation to member States on the topical role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address the global crisis (democracy, economy, health, climate, social) with special consideration of the impact of AI in these areas;
- welcome the proposal by the Bureau of the CDCPP to prepare a set of principles for inspired policy-making by governments that would form an "integrated culture/nature strategy", based on the Council of Europe's human rights approach and its Conventions in the sector;
- commit to preparing, following the invitation by the Committee of Ministers, an implementation report on Recommendation No. R(2000)13 on a European Policy on Access to Archives;
- commit to commenting on the draft texts as prepared by the Bureau of the CDCPP over the next few months, with a view to preparing final versions of the texts for discussion/adoption by the CDCPP at its autumn plenary session.