

BELGIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

6TH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE (22-24 APRIL 2015)

**"Cultural heritage in the 21st century for living better together.
Towards a common strategy for Europe"**

THE NAMUR CALL

WE THE MINISTERS OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL CONVENTION, MEETING IN NAMUR ON 23-24 APRIL 2015,

- i. Asserting that cultural heritage is a common asset of the peoples which should be preserved in all circumstances;
 - ii. Alarmed by the increasing number of acts of deliberate destruction of cultural heritage in the context of conflicts all over the world;
 - iii. Recalling the provisions on the prevention of illicit trade in cultural property set out in the European Convention on the protection of the archaeological heritage (ETS 143) opened for signature in Valletta on 25 May 1992;
 - iv. Mindful of Recommendation R(96)6 on the protection of cultural heritage against unlawful acts;
 - v. Taking into account the work in progress within the Parliamentary Assembly and in particular the report of 18 April 2015 on cultural heritage in crisis and post-crisis situations;
 - vi. Associating ourselves to UNESCO's appeals in defence of heritage;
 - vii. Welcoming the support of civil society and the INGOs concerned,
1. Deplore the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage and the illicit trafficking of cultural property which constitute an impoverishment of the common heritage and incur our collective responsibility with regard to future generations;
 2. Firmly condemn both such acts, regardless of where they are committed, and appeal for international solidarity to prevent and suppress them;
 3. Decide to initiate discussions in the Council of Europe to reinforce European cooperation, including on legal instruments, on the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking of cultural property, with the relevant stakeholders including the United Nations and the European Union.