

Fifth European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage

(Portorož, Slovenia, 6-7 April 2001)

Resolutions and declaration

Preamble common to the resolutions

Meeting in Portorož (Slovenia) on 6 and 7 April 2001 for the 5th European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage, the Ministers of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, with the support of the observers from the other countries invited,

- stressing that the existence of the Council of Europe is founded on a “common heritage” of ideals and principles enshrined in its Statute;
- referring to the final declarations of the Summits of Heads of State and Government held in Vienna (1993) and Strasbourg (1997) and the 104th Session of the Committee of Ministers in Budapest (1999);
- proclaiming their commitment to the co-operation framework set up by the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985) and the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992) and welcoming the opening for signature in the year 2000 of the European Landscape Convention;
- subscribing to the principles of the Declaration on cultural diversity adopted by the Committee of Ministers at their 733rd meeting (2000) and stressing the key contribution of the heritage sector to the policies to be implemented in response to that declaration;
- conscious of the possibilities made available by globalisation for the development of intercultural dialogue and universal access to relevant information, but mindful of the need to preserve the diversity and specific values of the heritage of each individual community,

adopt the following resolutions and declarations:

Resolution No. 1 on the role of cultural heritage and the challenge of globalisation

We, the European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage,

I. Welcome the considerable progress made since the first conference organised in Brussels in 1969, and the interest now being taken in cultural heritage;

II. Express our satisfaction concerning the adoption of adequate measures on the national and trans-national levels to protect our common European cultural heritage, and to promote and pursue a common European policy in this field within the framework of the Council of Europe;

III. Are committed to taking co-ordinated action, in response to the economic and political challenges of the new century;

IV. Draw the attention of all public authorities and economic decision makers to the central role of conserving and promoting cultural heritage in:

- implementing the Council of Europe’s objectives of strengthening democracy, maintaining peace, bringing about social progress and sustaining cultural diversity;
- drawing up a pan-European development model to address the challenge of globalisation.

V. In this regard, we stress the following principles:

1. *Cultural heritage and globalisation*

We recognise that, in the context of globalisation, the cultural heritage has special value that requires the development of policies to maintain the common interest in this sector:

We underline, therefore, the necessity to:

- a. ensure that in the information society, everyone has reasonable access to knowledge, culture and cultural heritage;
- b. ensure that free access to cultural heritage is governed by an ethical approach towards its market strategy, including reinforcing international co-operation to monitor and combat illicit trafficking;
- c. raise awareness among communities of the value of cultural heritage as an asset for their sustainable development and quality of life;
- d. ensure that diversity of cultural heritage at the local, regional and national levels
 - gives people a primary sense of identity,
 - provides people with an asset in global economic competition,
 - contributes to their prosperity and strengthens the stability and social cohesion that encourage investment.

We call upon public authorities to adopt measures to:

- enable local communities to discover their identity and sense of belonging, through improved understanding of the material, linguistic and spiritual values of cultural heritage,
- protect and enhance the authenticity and integrity of cultural heritage,
- preserve the craft trades and small and medium-sized enterprises which specialise in the maintenance and restoration of the regional character of the heritage,

- ensure a balance between training in new technologies and the development and transmission of traditional skills, thus facilitating the availability and use of traditional materials and techniques,
- work alongside respective professional sectors in the growing use of heritage in cultural industries and tourism, and assure quality of training and the adoption of a code of ethics to prevent manipulation,
- foster the international exchange of experience and practitioners, based on an inter-disciplinary approach, which is essential to spread heritage conservation skills evenly throughout Europe,
- devise a sustainable development model that is both democratic and internationally just, to balance the irreplaceable contribution of the market and private investment, linked to the policies being developed within Unesco and the Council of Europe.

2. Promotion of mutual understanding and cohesion

Recognising that:

- the diverse European landscape has a cultural dimension, perceived by people, which forms their cultural environment, and that
- the preservation and fostering of cultural diversity are constituent elements of the identity of communities and individuals,

We are convinced that:

- a.* individuals and communities have a fundamental right to self-defined identities, to know their history and to shape their future through their heritage. They have a right to enjoy their heritage; they equally have an obligation to respect the heritage of others and to consider the common interest in all heritage;
- b.* the values attached to the cultural environment in Europe:
 - should be the basis of mutual understanding and contribute to conflict prevention,
 - counterbalance the risks of homogenisation inherent in globalisation,
 - set quality standards for improving that environment, and
 - are a catalyst for creativity.
- c.* We call upon national, regional and local authorities to:
 - promote the integrated conservation of cultural heritage, that respects the diverse contribution of past and present communities, their cultures and patterns of use,
 - develop heritage policies which intrinsically benefit, preserve and enhance the identity of individuals and communities and cultural diversity,
 - ensure the right of communities, their members and non-governmental organisations to participate adequately in consultation and decision-making processes affecting the heritage,
 - encourage freedom of access to the heritage consistent with respect for privacy and cultural values,

- take practical steps to raise awareness of the importance of cultural diversity based on mutual understanding,

and upon national authorities in particular to:

- develop international and trans-frontier co-operation and agreements between states, based on reciprocal responsibility for preserving and enhancing the distinctive heritage of relevant communities,
- encourage trans-frontier contacts and shared projects between related communities and individuals,
- facilitate the involvement of non-governmental organisations and experts, from communities in these links,

accordingly,

- we agree that cultural heritage policies should aim to preserve cultural diversity and encourage inter-cultural dialogue, and should be focused on initiatives in the field of education, awareness-raising and life-long training, and
- we reaffirm that understanding and explaining heritage should be the basis of teaching history, and is of major value for training future citizens in Europe. History teaching should not be limited to commenting on national or local heritages, but also put forward its trans-national character.

3. The contribution of heritage to citizenship and democracy

Recognising that the cultural environment, like the natural environment, is an ideal area for citizen participation, we call upon public authorities to:

- a.* involve the public and communities, alongside professionals, in identifying and protecting cultural heritage;
- b.* establish the legal, financial and professional framework necessary for concerted action by experts, owners, investors, undertakings and civil society;
- c.* develop the concept of shared responsibilities by incorporating the heritage dimension into economic, social and educational strategies, to facilitate sustainable management of the environment;
- d.* since public funds are necessarily limited, encourage, by appropriate measures and incentives:
 - the market to sponsor heritage and invest in its less profitable aspects,
 - civil society to play an increasing role in the enlarged field of heritage now perceived by people.

We emphasise that citizen participation is not only of value from the cultural and heritage point of view, but also reflects the development of practical citizenship, vital to achieving the Council of Europe's objective of fostering democratic practices.

4. Enhancing the cultural environment and the ethical role of the Council of Europe

Recognising that all elements of the European cultural environment embody both market and cultural values, we strongly recommend our governments and the Council of Europe to elaborate and promote:

- a.* ethical development strategies in the global market that aim to promote prosperity, whilst recognising the essential public dimension to sustaining cultural heritage, its authenticity and integrity;
- b.* policies to achieve quality in contemporary architecture, appropriate to its context, which is essential to create the heritage of tomorrow;
- c.* steps to discourage reproductions of vanished buildings and structures, unless they are proven to be compatible with the aim of preserving the integrity of cultural heritage;
- d.* steps to encourage regular maintenance of heritage;
- e.* spatial development policies that recognise the values of the cultural environment, including the contributions of all historical periods, and the full range of cultural communities;
- f.* cultural co-operation under the aegis of the Council of Europe, recognising its indispensable role in identifying changes in society, formulating ethical approaches and constructing inter-sectoral policies, to give practical effect to the democratic principles that are the European common heritage.

Wish to reinforce co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, Unesco and Iccrom, and associate our member states in the taking of decisions about co-operation;

Request the Council of Europe to develop the tools necessary to implement the foregoing principles;

Invite the Secretary General to transmit the resolutions adopted on the occasion of the 5th ministerial conference to the competent bodies within the Council of Europe and other international organisations, and inform them about actions to be taken in consequence.

Resolution No. 2 on the Council of Europe's future activities in the cultural heritage field, 2002-2005

We, the European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage:

- I. Congratulate the Council of Europe for its considerable contribution to an improvement in heritage protection and promotion in member states;
- II. Underline the importance of the Council's assistance in framing heritage policies and revising legislation, and in building European networks for technical and professional co-operation and development;
- III. In the context of activities under the European Cultural Convention, the Granada (1985) and Valletta (1992) Conventions, looking ahead to the application

of the European Landscape Convention (2000) within this, the European Year of Languages, and bearing in mind all initiatives in the cultural heritage sector, most recently the “Europe, a Common Heritage” Campaign:

- applaud the establishment of the European Heritage Network, and the continuing role of technical assistance activities, which are of central importance to promoting the common cultural heritage as one of the pillars of the European cultural co-operation in the information age;
- agree that the Council of Europe has a specific role to play in identifying, highlighting and promoting social benefits of the cultural heritage, in the fields of community relations, democratisation and social cohesion;
- point out that the preservation and use of the cultural heritage, as an asset for development and a factor for social cohesion, should contribute to the aims of the Stability Pact for South East Europe concerning democratisation, sustainable development, co-operation and security;
- request the Committee of Ministers to ensure that a programme for the period 2002-2005 is prepared and implemented encompassing the following activities:

1. *Reference texts*

Adjusting methods of governance by developing reference texts in the field of cultural heritage, including:

- a. extending the concept of heritage to encompass the cultural environment, and addressing the need to sustain its cultural values (including material, non-material and spiritual), as perceived by people;
- b. establishing a responsibility to identify, sustain and allow appropriate access to cultural heritage regardless of its current political context, in the context of reciprocal rights and responsibilities towards all cultural heritage in Europe, encouraging trans-national action and co-operation in its conservation;
- c. promoting ethical, non-discriminatory policies for public access to information about the cultural heritage, encouraging the use of electronic media, and contributing to the development of adequate policies to combat the illicit traffic in cultural assets that may be encouraged by this increased accessibility of information;
- d. devising a strategy and implementing a programme for the progressive updating and strengthening of the earlier conventions and recommendations and other standard texts, and for ensuring their effective dissemination;
- e. establishing principles for the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed cultural monuments and for fostering regular maintenance of cultural heritage;
- f. in the framework of the European Landscape Convention, developing core data standards for documenting cultural landscapes.

2. The European Heritage Network (Herein)

Permanently establishing the European Heritage Network in the Council of Europe, through a structure to be defined in consultation with member states, and with continued support from a range of partners including the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (Femp), which could be formally placed under the auspices of the Council of Europe. Specifically, the Network should:

- a.* provide a source of authentic core data and experience in the management of the cultural heritage in Europe, available to administrations and the public alike;
- b.* act as an “Observatory” to analyse and forecast the benefits of the cultural heritage to a rapidly changing society;
- c.* facilitate the monitoring of the development of heritage policies, and of compliance with the conventions;
- d.* maintain and develop heritage co-operation networks, and facilitate trans-national co-operation, particularly in the field of archaeology and that of the combating of illicit trafficking in cultural heritage;
- e.* provide a cultural heritage portal, to effectively disseminate information in the electronic age, facilitate the development of interactive professional forums and data networks, and encourage people, especially the young, to engage with the authentic heritage;
- f.* monitor technological developments in order to facilitate the evolution of an information society respectful of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe, through
 - promoting joint consideration of the legal questions connected with the use of digital images of the heritage,
 - the definition of methodological tools making possible the interoperability of scientific databases and the creation of specific multimedia products.

3. Technical co-operation and fieldwork

On the basis of the experience acquired through the Council of Europe’s Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme, and from a trans-sectoral perspective including the built environment, the landscape, and the archaeological heritage underlying both, future activities should:

- a.* meet states’ specific requests for co-operation and assistance;
- b.* promote the use of common criteria for the preparation and updating of documentation;
- c.* wherever necessary, assist in reforming management and planning techniques and the administrative and legal framework;
- d.* through practical action on the ground, promote the Council of Europe’s principles and ethical values laid down in the reference texts, thereby encouraging feedback and an input to discussions at Council of Europe level.

4. *Teaching, training and awareness-raising*

Drawing on its accumulated experience and established tools, future activities by the Council of Europe should:

- a. highlight the diversity of Europe's common material and non-material heritage, encouraging a transnational understanding of history and of Europe's current situation and future trends, and encouraging education for democratic citizenship;
- b. use European Heritage Days to these ends, particularly by developing trans-frontier activities and the specific involvement of young people;
- c. lead to an initiative on ethics and techniques of communication, aimed at various types of heritage professionals working with the public;
- d. promote, particularly to young people, the continuing relevance of traditional skills and common standards and recognition of heritage-related qualifications at the European level, facilitating the free movement, exchange and transfer of traditional and professional skills.

We, the European ministers,

- request that an implementation programme be drawn up and circulated promptly,
- resolve to consider the support that we can offer to these activities and to secure the broadest participation possible.

***Declaration on the role of voluntary organisations
in the field of cultural heritage***

Meeting in Portorož (Slovenia) on 6-7 April 2001 for their 5th European Conference, the ministers responsible for the cultural heritage of the States Party to the European Cultural Convention,

- referring to Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, granting everybody the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others,
- taking into account also Article 10 of the same Convention concerning everyone's right to freedom of expression,
- referring to Article 14 of the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe,
- reiterating the statement made by the ministers responsible for the cultural heritage at their 4th European Conference in Helsinki in 1996 that "the role of voluntary organisations should be more effectively promoted, used and encouraged by taking into account the major contributions made by voluntary initiatives in building a democratic society",
- pointing to the fact that the year 2001 has been proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations,
- referring to the Unesco Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters,

- referring to Recommendation 1496 (2001) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 January 2001 on improving the status and role of volunteers,
- underlining the important conclusions made by the First European Conference on voluntary organisations in the field of cultural heritage held in Oslo on 21-24 September 2000,
- at the same time acknowledging that the main responsibility for the protection of the cultural heritage remains with governmental authorities,

adopt the following declaration on the role of voluntary organisations in the field of cultural heritage:

We, the European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, agree that the general principles valid for all voluntary organisations are also valid for those working in the cultural heritage field;

Request public authorities in our member states to base their action regarding voluntary work upon the following principles;

1. The existence of voluntary organisations is important to building and consolidating societies based on pluralistic political democracy.
2. Voluntary organisations run according to democratic principles are essential in educating people in true democracy.
3. The right to establish voluntary organisations is an integral part of human rights and should be encouraged by all governments.
4. Voluntary organisations should be granted full freedom of speech, whilst respecting the normal limitations necessary in a democratic society.
5. Voluntary organisations should have access to the information necessary to facilitate their role of monitoring and constructive criticism of the heritage protection policies of public authorities.
6. Voluntary organisations should be given an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, for instance in spatial planning and the selection of monuments and sites for protection.
7. Voluntary organisations should be encouraged to supplement governmental and other public work, taking on responsibilities that do not normally or naturally fall within the responsibilities of such agencies.
8. Governments should encourage voluntary organisations to take an active part in preventing conflicts by respecting cultural diversity and encouraging the protection of the culture of others.
9. The establishment and work of voluntary organisations should not in any way be hindered by bureaucratic mismanagement.
10. So far as possible, public authorities should implement financial measures to encourage and assist the development of voluntary organisations.

11. Financial measures should be available without limiting the ability of voluntary organisations to fulfil their role as constructive critics of government policies.
12. Financial measures should be transparent and easily accessible in order to achieve democratic accountability in the distribution of available resources.
13. Voluntary organisations are essential for disseminating knowledge to the public at large in the framework of their mission.
14. Co-operation between cultural heritage and other organisations should be encouraged, in order to secure a trans-sectoral and coherent policy for the conservation of the environment as a whole.
15. Voluntary organisations should establish their credibility through their achievements, standards and ability to take responsibility.
16. Voluntary organisations should respect legislation in their field, but should be encouraged to propose improvements if need be.
17. Voluntary organisations should have access to training in order to enhance their competence as active participants in society's protection of the cultural heritage.

We, the ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, urge the Council of Europe to:

- set up a twinning system where associations are made between new voluntary cultural heritage organisations and well established ones;
- secure a regular contact forum in the form of European conferences for voluntary organisations in the cultural heritage field by utilising existing structures, when possible;
- develop the European Heritage Network (Herein) as a portal to an electronic forum where voluntary organisations can communicate and liaise.

Final Declaration

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, on the occasion of their 5th Conference, held in Portorož on 6-7 April 2001, express their warm gratitude to the Slovenian government for all its efforts, which ensured the success of the Conference, and their congratulations on the perfect organisation of the event.