

First Conference of European Ministers responsible for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage of Monuments and Sites

(Brussels, 25-27 November 1969)

Resolutions of the conference

Resolution No. 1

The Conference of European Ministers responsible for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage of Monuments and Sites (Brussels, 25-27 November 1969),

Considering

- that the five Symposia organised by the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CCC) of the Council of Europe on the preservation and rehabilitation of groups and areas of buildings of historical or artistic interest have brought out clearly the full value attaching to the cultural heritage of monuments and sites alike from the cultural and from the human, economic and social points of view, and that they have drawn attention to the numerous threats to that European heritage in all countries;
- that the aggravation of these threats is disquieting by reason of the growing disproportion between the dangers to be averted and the means at present utilised to counteract them;
- that realisation of the social value of this heritage confers on it a new dimension which necessitates its preservation and its active integration into the setting of man's life;

Recommends the governments

1. to arrange for the expeditious compilation of a protective inventory of their cultural heritage bases, wherever practicable, on the card designed by the CCC for the Inventory of the European Cultural Heritage (IECH), defining the objects to be protected so that the information can be used as a basis for physical planning and/or other protective measures;
2. to prepare maps showing the buildings, areas and natural features of cultural interest which must be respected;
3. to step up their efforts to halt the deterioration and destruction of an irreplaceable heritage by taking all suitable measures, in particular:
 - a. by adapting their laws and regulations in order to meet the requirements of active preservation and the integration of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites within contemporary society;

- b. by integrating the cultural heritage of buildings and sites within the framework of a general policy for town and country planning, in particular by means of permanent co-operation at all levels between the authorities responsible for the protection of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites, on the one hand, and for town and country planning, on the other;
- c. by allocating greater resources for financing the work of preservation and rehabilitation, or for the participation of the public authorities in such work;
- d. by adopting provisions relating to taxation and inheritance, as well as administrative measures, calculated to encourage private owners or users of items pertaining to the cultural heritage of monuments and sites to arrange for their restoration and rehabilitation themselves;
- e. by including the cost of preserving or salvaging cultural property endangered by public or private works, including preliminary archaeological research, in the budget of construction costs;
- f. by training and increasing the number of the requisite specialised personnel;
- g. by making use of all suitable media, such as the press, radio, film and television, to inform the general public;
- h. by introducing into school curricula syllabuses calculated to awaken young people's feelings and sense of responsibility for their cultural environment;

Pays tribute

to the action pursued by the Council of Europe for the protection of the European cultural heritage;

Invites

the Council of Europe to continue and intensify its action, *inter alia* by setting up a committee composed of

- i. government experts from the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, of specialists in the protection of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites and of specialists in town and planning, of representatives of the Consultative Assembly, the European Conference of Local Authorities, the Council for Cultural Co-operation and appropriate international and non-governmental organisations, and
- ii. assisted by independent experts appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for their specialised knowledge and ability.

The Committee's programme would include the following priority subjects:

- a. elaboration of a charter setting forth the general principles and guidelines of a comprehensive policy for the preservation and rehabilitation of the European cultural heritage of monuments and sites. Such a charter might later pave the way for the signing of a convention or other appropriate legal instruments, which would also be open to accession, at the invitation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, by countries which are not Parties to the European Cultural Convention;

- b. establishment of a system for exchanging information on the preservation of the European cultural heritage of monuments and sites;
- c. formulation of opinions on the preparation of protective inventories of national heritages and their practical application;
- d. information and education of public opinion;
- e. elaboration of principles and methods of operation corresponding to the needs of governments and local authorities.

***Resolution No. 2
on the organisation of a year devoted to the preservation
and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage
of monuments and sites***

The Conference of European Ministers responsible for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage of Monuments and Sites, meeting in Brussels from 25-27 November 1969,

Noting

that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has designated 1970 as European Conservation Year and convinced that this initiative will be most successful in drawing the attention of the public to threats to the physical environment,

Invites

the Council of Europe to consider the designation, in the near future, of a year devoted to the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites, with the aim of making Europeans aware of the dangers to their common heritage and of the urgent necessity for measures of protection and of integrating this precious heritage in the society of today and tomorrow.