



EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods

adopted on 13 December 2022

Background of EU action plan

EU Security Union Strategy 2020



EU Strategy to tackle Serious and Organised Crime 2021 - 2025



EU Action Plan on Trafficking in Cultural Goods (2022)

- Policy document setting out EU Commission priorities and recommendations to Member States
- Wide stakeholder involvement in the preparation (public consultation, call for evidence, Council discussions, bilateral interviews, etc.)
- Participation of many EU Commission services

Main EU Commission services involved

- DG HOME: coordination of AP + fight against organized crime and terrorism / law enforcement response
- DG EAC: protection of cultural heritage, cooperation with cultural heritage institutions and other stakeholders
- DG GROW: art market regulation, cultural and creative industries, Directive 2014/60/UE (return of goods within EU)
- DG TAXUD: import and export of cultural goods
- DG JUST: criminal law and judicial response to criminal action (incl. Eurojust)
- DG CNECT: regulation of online sales of cultural goods, digitization of cultural heritage
- DG FISMA: prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing
- EEAS/DG ECHO/DG NEAR/DG INTPA/FPI: cooperation with non-EU countries, including in crisis/conflict zones
- Further services involved: SG, DG BUDG, LS, OLAF, DG RTD, DG DEFIS

Scope: trafficking and beyond

- Main illegal activities associated with trafficking in cultural goods: **theft and robbery, looting** (the illicit removal of ancient relics from archaeological sites, buildings or monuments), **forgery**.
- **Linked crimes**, e.g., fraud, disposal of stolen goods (fencing), smuggling, corruption
- Criminals can abuse even legally acquired cultural goods, **for money laundering, sanctions evasion, tax evasion or terrorism financing**.

Focus on four strategic objectives

- Improving **prevention and detection of crimes by market participants and cultural heritage institutions**
 - Strengthening **law enforcement and judicial** capabilities
 - Boosting **international cooperation**, including with international organisations or source and transit countries of cultural goods in conflicts and crises
 - Gaining the **support of other key stakeholders** to protect cultural goods from criminal harm
- Two-fold objective: fighting crime and protecting cultural heritage
- Shows what EU Commission/EEAS is already doing, and announces new actions
- Gives recommendations to Member States, e.g. regarding ratification and implementation of the Nicosia Convention

Thank you



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