

## **Third European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage**

*(Valletta, 16-17 January 1992)*

### **Resolutions of the conference**

Meeting in Malta on 16-17 January 1992 on the occasion of the 3rd Conference of European Ministers responsible for the Cultural Heritage, the Ministers of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, with the support of their colleagues from the other countries invited,

- affirming the irreplaceable contribution which the cultural heritage, both a witness to links with the past and a source of inspiration for the future, makes to the construction of a wider Europe,
- bearing in mind the major role which the protection and enhancement of the heritage plays in cultural, economic and social development as well as in improvement of people's surroundings,
- noting the speed and scale of the political and social changes which have occurred in part of Europe as well as the emergence of new priorities and needs,
- recognising the urgent need to develop pan-European co-operation for the purposes of a joint quest for a better physical and human environment,
- having regard for the final document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage, held in the context of the CSCE, particularly to the reference therein to the contribution the Council of Europe could make to carrying out actions desired by the states taking part in the CSCE process,

adopt the following resolutions:

#### ***Resolution No. 1 on the archaeological heritage***

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage;

I. welcome the opening for signature, in Malta on 16 January 1992, of the (revised) European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, which creates an institutional framework for European co-operation in this field;

II. recommend that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

A. invite the signatory states to make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible within their institutions for the ratification, acceptance or approval of the above-mentioned convention;

B. invite the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) to carry out, even before the entry into force of the Convention, a “European plan for archaeology” managed by its Cultural Heritage Committee and comprising a number of pilot activities, such as:

- the launch of a campaign to raise public awareness of the value and significance of the archaeological heritage, based on the theme of “The Bronze Age”. This campaign should make use of the latest media techniques and highlight cultural sites that are landmarks in the European memory;
- the establishment of European networks of architectural excavations and investigations involving professionals from several countries;
- the organisation of thematic networks combining technical co-operation and the cultural promotion of archaeological sites (for example, Roman aqueducts or ancient theatres, suitable for contemporary entertainments and performances);
- a comparative study of the situation in urban archaeology in the various countries, which could give rise to the publication of a European urban archaeology handbook;
- and, for this and other purposes, the production of a multilingual glossary of archaeology terminology.

***Resolution No. 2  
on the institutional framework for pan-European co-operation  
concerning the cultural heritage, open to other regions of the world***

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage:

I. express their support for the initiatives taken by the Council of Europe with a view to enabling European states not signatories to the European Cultural Convention as well as to enabling European states participating in the CSCE process to be involved not only in the present ministerial conference but also in parts of the CSCE’s culture and heritage programme;

II. regard the multilateral co-operation framework provided by the Council of Europe as particularly well suited to the needs of broader co-operation by virtue of the gradual increase in the number of its member states, the experience it has acquired in the culture and environment sector and the flexibility of its working methods. This framework also makes it possible to organise co-operation with parliaments, local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations;

III. invite the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to carry out a reform of the structures and operating rules of the CDCC and the Cultural Fund with a view to more effectively responding to the demands of broader co-operation and providing instruments appropriate to the Council of Europe’s new role;

IV. emphasise the need for better co-ordination of the activities of the Council of Europe and the European communities with a view to making fuller and more concerted use of existing resources for the purposes of heritage programmes.

***Resolution No. 3  
on the priorities of a pan-European cultural heritage project***

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage request the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to invite the CDCC and its Cultural Heritage Committee (CC-PAT) to develop their work programme on the basis of the following four priorities:

*A. An anticipatory approach*

It lies with the Council of Europe to foster the advancement of heritage policies within the framework of an ambitious pan-European project of cultural and social development. An effort of imagination is needed with respect to the direction, content and methods of conservation in the present perspectives of European society. It is important:

- a. to set the integrated conservation of the heritage within the context of trans-sectoral policies for the physical and human environment. A particular effort is necessary with regard to the balanced development of historic towns and the safeguarding of cultural sites and landscapes, which are everywhere seriously threatened;
- b. to continue to develop the concept of cultural heritage protection, specifically by identifying heritages that are inadequately protected or not even protected at all and drawing up appropriate specific strategies;
- c. to explore the social aspects of conservation more fully by integrating them with housing and employment policies.

*B. Technical co-operation*

To meet the urgent needs of “Greater Europe”, the CC-PAT’s present programme should be strengthened and geared to the following main activities:

- a. a “technical co-operation and consultancy” programme, where the leading specialists from eastern, central and western Europe are involved in expert missions aimed at solving complex conservation problems;
- b. the organisation of multinational professional workshops involving experts in a study of common legal or technical problems, such as the updating of heritage and town planning legislation, the development of inventory techniques or the devising of funding arrangements;
- c. a feasibility study of a system for co-ordinating exchanges of information and research on the deterioration of materials as a result of atmospheric pollution and other factors;
- d. compilation and management of a periodically updated European directory of heritage policies providing a useful means of recording trends in the various countries’ legislation and practice;
- e. the development, in conjunction with other international bodies, of a programme for exchanging information on policies with regard to the moveable

heritage, with particular reference to the prevention of the illicit circulation of cultural property.

*C. Training and consciousness-raising*

In its broad sense, the concept of training covers vocational training, the initiation of young people in heritage values and the raising of awareness among authorities and the public.

*a. Vocational training*

The aim will be:

- to develop the European Network of Heritage Skills and Crafts managed by the Council of Europe. Here, not only should the programme of stimulation and co-ordination in favour of craft trades be continued but also, in association with the competent international bodies, a new recommendation to member states should be prepared on the updating of training arrangements for architects, engineers, administrators and other professions concerned with planning and supervising the conservation and restoration of cultural assets;
- to support professional exchanges, for which provision in the form of fellowships or training courses is available from 1992 onwards in the CC-PAT's programme.

Such exchanges, the practical arrangements for which should be clarified, should be aimed at professions concerned with planning and supervision as well as at highly qualified craftsmen. An exchange scheme for highly qualified craftsmen might be studied.

*b. Raising awareness of heritage values*

- The continuation of Council of Europe's projects such as European Heritage Classes, European Cultural Routes and European Heritage Days will contribute to the essential consciousness-raising among European youth and the public at large.
- A special effort to disseminate the Council of Europe's work by means of the latest media techniques is now essential.
- The campaign to generate appreciation of the values of the archaeological heritage, as well as the exploitation of work carried out, for example, in the cultural sites or the nineteenth-century heritage sector, should lead to media events as well as action to promote the heritage representing landmarks in the European memory.
- To ensure the practical implementation of schemes for conserving and promoting the heritage, the Secretariat will study the possibility of setting up a European foundation for the cultural heritage, which could be the result of restructuring of the Pro Venetia Viva Foundation.

#### *D. Funding*

In order to meet the urgent need for investment in the restoration and upkeep of the cultural heritage in a large number of countries, the Council of Europe should, from 1992 onwards, supplement the work being done on the subject of conservation funding.

In pursuance of the Council of Ministers' Recommendation No. R (91) 6 to member states on measures likely to promote the funding of conservation of the architectural heritage, a group of experts from public and private institutions should be asked:

- to make more detailed suggestions regarding financial and legal instruments capable of facilitating the launch of rehabilitation schemes in the European countries;
- to study the potential value of an international legal instrument calculated to promote, through fiscal or other incentives, investment or sponsorship schemes in countries other than the investor's country of origin.

In association with this group, the Secretariat should carry out a feasibility study of a fund, managed by the Council of Europe in conjunction with various partners, to support pilot schemes in European countries.

#### ***Resolution No. 4 on conservation in situations of conflict***

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage:

1. condemn the deliberate destruction of cultural property in Europe as a result of military action and against established international conventions;
2. appeal solemnly to those involved to desist from the wilful destruction of a common cultural heritage and to permit conservation of cultural property to proceed outside the context of political conflict and with recognition of the significance of the cultural heritage of minorities;
3. urge the Council of Europe to join with Unesco and other international bodies in concerted action to repair the damage done.

#### ***Final Resolution***

The European ministers responsible for the cultural heritage, on the occasion of their third Conference held in Malta on 16-17 January 1992,

Express their warm gratitude to the Maltese Government for its efforts to ensure the success of the Conference,

Thank the Finnish Government for offering to host their fourth conference.