Third Regional Seminar
“Faro Convention for concrete action on cultural heritage”,

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SIGNATURE OF the FARO CONVENTION
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

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PROCESS

- **Launched with a seminar on the Faro Convention, organized by the Department of Town Planning and Housing, parallel to a Granada Convention workshop, organized by the Council of Europe in Cyprus**
- **Translation of the Faro Convention in Greek**
- **Consultation Process with major stakeholders (excluding the public) – not concluded**
- **Local Development Pilot project in Cyprus in the "Faro Spirit"**
- **Decision on reinitiating the process in 2019 in the framework of the CoE 70 years anniversary**
- **Participation in regional seminars on the implementation of Faro Convention and consultation with the**
- **Preparation of Report by the Department of Town Planning and Housing and submission to the Ministry of Interior**
- **Approval and submission to the Council of Ministers with the proposal for signature**
- **Signing of the Faro Convention by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus in the Council of Europe**

√ STRONG WILL and PERSISTENCE **√ COOPERATION WITH THE CoE**

THE FARO CONVENTION and CYPRUS

REPORT STRUCTURE

Introduction

- **Values of the Convention**
- **Rational for the signature**

Convention context and relation to other conventions signed and rectified by the Republic of Cyprus

Obligations arising from the signature

Financial obligations

Process of Signature and Ratification

Convention Summary

List of member States

Translation of the Convention

THE FARO CONVENTION and CYPRUS

INTRODUCTION:

- **The only Convention in the cultural heritage sector not signed by the Republic of Cyprus**
- **Shared values of the Convention and the Republic of Cyprus**
  - **Participatory governance: *The right of the individual and the need of the society to participate and to be involved in the cultural life***
  - **Economic and Social aspect: *The cultural heritage as a means of achieving sustainable development and social cohesion and the importance of adopting a cross-sectoral approach.***
- **Framework Convention: A document setting out broader commitments with regards to the principles, objectives and governance while leaving the implementation methods to the discretion of the parties**

SIGNATURE RATIONAL

- **At the Governance level**
  - **Suggested actions by the Convention are in line with the Governance Program of the President of the Republic of Cyprus (Participatory democracy, Civil society empowerment)**
  - **Principles that coincide with those of the Ministry of Interior (Citizen-centered approaches, Professionalism, Equality, Integrity, Honesty, Transparency, Reliability, Excellence and Total Quality)**
  - **A trigger for better cross-sectoral and interministerial cooperation**
- **At the Operational level (Department of Town Planning and Housing)**
  - **Principles that coincide with those of the Department (On the conservation of cultural heritage and on cross-sectoral approaches)**
  - **Suggested actions enhance the Department's already good practice in cultural heritage matters (eg Listed Buildings Grant Scheme)**
  - **Department's policy improvement through cooperation with other countries and the CoE**
  - **Improvement of the management of cultural heritage through increased public engagement**

SIGNATURE RATIONAL

- **At the Local Authorities, NGOs and Society level**
  - **Upgraded role of the society in the consultation on cultural heritage management matters**
  - **The Faro Convention Network (pan-European network of “heritage communities”) offers extensive knowledge, expertise and tools that aim at local development**
  - **A sense of shared responsibility with regards to the cultural heritage promoted through public awareness**

WIDER CONTEXT AND RELATION TO OTHER CONVENTIONS SIGNED/RATIFIED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

- **Shared principles with the CoE (Human rights, Rule of law) and the EU (Respect to the human dignity and human rights, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of law)**
  - **The Committee on Culture of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE encouraged the member States to sign the Convention (07.12.2018)**
  - **The European Commission, as a follow-up to the European Year of Cultural Heritage, signed an agreement with the CoE to promote the Convention's principles (15.06.2018)**
- **The concept of public engagement in cultural heritage matters already existed in other conventions**
  - **Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (ratified in 1988)**
  - **European Landscape Convention (ratified in 2006)**
  - **Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ratified in 2003)**
- **The similar concept to the "heritage communities" included in other conventions**
  - **UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ratified in 2006)**
  - **Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ratified 1996)**

OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM SIGNING THE CONVENTION/FRAMEWORK

- **The obligations arising from signing the Convention, as described in Article 5 and the Explanatory Report of the CoE, have been interpreted with reference to the Cyprus context**
  - **To recognise the public interest associated with elements of the cultural heritage in accordance with their importance to society**
  - **To enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation**
  - **To ensure, in the specific context of each Party, that legislative provisions exist for exercising the right to cultural heritage as defined in Article 4**
  - **To foster an economic and social climate which supports participation in cultural heritage activities**
  - **To promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity**
  - **To recognise the value of cultural heritage situated on territories under their jurisdiction, regardless of its origin**
  - **To formulate integrated strategies to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this Convention**

OBLIGATIONS ARISING FROM SIGNING THE CONVENTION/FRAMEWORK

- **The implementation of the Convention does not raise any additional financial obligations than those already undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus for the implementation of its national laws and strategies regarding the cultural heritage.**






SIGNING/RATIFICATION PROCESS

- **Signing Process**
  - **Approved by the Council of Ministers**
  - **Signed by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus in the Council**
- **Signing does not commit the State to ratify the Convention but to refrain from acts that are against the objective of the Convention**

- **Ratification Process**
  - **Consultation with the Legal Service on the preparation of a bill to be tabled in the House of Representatives**
  - **Approval by the House of Representatives**
  - **Publication of the Convention in the Official Newspaper of the Government in the form of a law of sanction**
- **The ratification consists a legal commitment by the State to the terms of the Convention**

“Landscape is not, as some perceive it, a mere sum of land, plants and water. It is the projection of the soul of a people over matter. ”

Odysseas Elytis





THANK YOU!