



Euromed 2016

Resolution on

Crisis management and protection of cultural heritage

Adopted on the 4th of November by the participants of the Euromed International Conference on Digital Heritage, Cyprus Oct 31st – Nov 5th 2016

The Euromed Conference 2016, considered in depth the increasing risks for the Cultural Heritage, occurring from men-made and natural disasters world-wide and particularly in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The current conflicts in the Middle East and the natural disasters (i.e. recent earthquakes in Mediterranean basin) underline the importance of urgent actions in order to establish a close collaboration between the stakeholders and agencies in charge of management of the cultural heritage assets and those in charge of crisis's management.

The Civil Protection Agencies and the Military Authorities could be advised in their tasks by cultural Heritage Experts, in a structured way, in order to establish plans and priorities for prevention, protection and post conflict restoration of the valuable assets of cultural heritage, using all the relevant technical means and well trained human resources. The development of structured synergies among the various agencies in charge of crisis management could effectively improve the efficiency of the protection of the cultural heritage and the use of the resources allocated for this purpose by the States, the European Union, the Council of Europe and relevant International Organizations (i.e. UNESCO, INTERPOL, ICOMOS, ICCROM, Blue Shield...).

Euromed 2016 fully supports the initiatives in this direction that could be undertaken by the European Union, the European countries and the other countries of the Mediterranean Basin. Particularly, in view of the organization of the International Conference foreseen in Abu Dhabi "High level International Conference on Terrorism and Culture", December 2016. The Chair of the Euromed 2016, Marinos Ioannides, addresses the current resolution to the Former French Minister Jack Lang, President of the "Institute du Monde Arabe" in Paris, in charge of the preparation of this important event.

The Euromed 2016, in line with the United Nations "initiative for protecting Cultural Heritage as an imperative for humanity", and following the conclusions of the panels of international experts on the challenges faced by the Cultural Heritage community, in the current crisis on Middle East (see attached documents), proposes ideas and measures in order to minimize the impact of the disasters and the conflicts in the Cultural Heritage and turn the disasters to opportunities for growth and peace. The Euromed 2016 recommends the use of innovative methods in cultural heritage preservation and valorization, the transferring of European excellence and expertise in the field

of cultural heritage management to the affected by the crisis areas. The Euromed 2016 recommends also the adoption of urgent measures to re-establish and train the networks of experts affected by the crisis (some of them leaving their countries among the waves of refugees) in view of the establishment of a *Cultural Heritage Knowledge Exchange Center* (CHKEC) under the United Nation Auspices.

The Euromed scientific and expert's network on Digital Cultural Heritage are at the disposal of the European and International Authorities, to contribute and support any relevant initiative.

Nicosia, Cyprus

4th of November 2016

Appendix

The Chair of Euromed, Marinos Ioannides has been asked to send this recommendation to the President of the French Republic and Former Minister Jack Lang and to the president of the European Commission.

M. Georgios Giannoulis Giannouloupoulos, chair of the panel “Re-thinking management and valorization of Middle East cultural heritage in the post-war period: where turns to opportunity, development and growth” has been appointed as a person for relevant Euromed contact and contribution within the framework of the present resolution and in collaboration with

M. Jean-Pierre Massue Member of the Senate of European Academy of Sciences and Arts, who has been asked to take contact with the French Authorities as well as with other international organizations, in view of the implementation of the resolution.

Mme Françoise Bortolotti, from INTERPOL Works of Art Unit, will inform the INTERPOL Authorities on this initiative in order to get the active support of the organization.