

Resolution on the compilation of national inventories of monuments, groups of buildings and sites of historical or artistic interest (72/21)

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 30 May 1972 at the 211th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers,

Taking note of the report of the 1st Session of the Committee on Monuments and Sites;

Reaffirming the importance which it attaches to making measures for the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites an integral part of regional planning;

Having regard to its Resolution (66) 19 of 29 March 1966, urging member governments to pursue forthwith a policy aimed at taking without delay such steps as were necessary to ensure the immediate protection of groups and areas of buildings of historical and artistic interest by means of:

(i) the identification and cataloguing of the cultural assets to be protected, if possible on the basis of the model index card for the Inventory of the European Cultural Heritage (IECH) illustrated since in the booklet Protective Inventory published by the Council of Europe in 1968;

(ii) the immediate application of adequate protection measures once a cultural asset is identified, without awaiting the completion of the protective inventory;

(iii) the establishment of machinery to enable emergency protective measures to be taken, pending the adaptation of existing regional planning legislation to the requirements of the artistic and historical heritage,

Recommends that member governments see to it that, in implementing the measures referred to above, whether by legislation or by any other appropriate and effective method, the national protective inventory is taken into consideration at all stages of regional planning and, as far as possible, in all other schemes for the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites.

Explanatory memorandum

In 1966, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution (66) 19 in which it urged member governments to compile national inventories for the protection of ancient buildings and historic or artistic sites, if possible on the basis of models which had already been prepared in the context of the programme of activities of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (Inventory of the European Cultural Heritage - IECH).

This system, i.e. the model protective inventory, is designed for assembling sufficient information to indicate exactly what cultural assets require protection; the inventory should consequently contain such data as are necessary to allow effective, speedy action

to protect groups and areas of buildings of historical and artistic interest which are in danger. In this way it differs from a scientific inventory which is always designed for the collection of the maximum amount of information in order to build up detailed and exhaustive documentation on the subjects in question.

The Committee on Monuments and Sites, an advisory body set up by the Committee of Ministers is composed of government experts who are responsible for implementing the Work Programme of the Council of Europe in matters relative to the protection of the cultural heritage and its inclusion in regional planning policy; they have reasserted the fundamental importance which should be attached to identifying the cultural heritage of monuments and sites in the face of the growing threats to its existence.

These are the reasons why the Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution (72) 21, attached. With a view to its implementation this resolution should be brought to the notice of all Ministries concerned, especially those of Culture, Education, Equipment and Planning and Environment, as well as all local authorities.
