

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (90) 20

**OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES
ON THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ,
TECHNICAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE IN EUROPE**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 September 1990,
at the 443rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to the European Cultural Convention signed in Paris on 19 December 1954 and, in particular, to Articles 1 and 5;

Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, opened for signature at Granada on 3 October 1985;

Having regard to the resolutions of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for the Architectural Heritage, held at Granada on 3 and 4 October 1985, and, in particular, to Resolution No. 2 on the promotion of the architectural heritage in socio-cultural life and as a factor in the quality of life;

Recalling that the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage constitutes an integral part of the historic heritage of Europe;

Emphasising the need to secure its protection and conservation by appropriate measures taking into account its specific nature;

Observing that the strategies to promote incentives and arouse public awareness to be set up in respect of this heritage would be given their rightful dimension in the context of concerted action at European level;

Considering that, to achieve these objectives, the promotion of scientific knowledge of the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage must be the subject of added attention on the part of the member States,

Recommends that the governments of member States:

- take or pursue the implementation of measures permitting the identification, survey and scientific analysis of the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage;
- to protect this heritage according to its specific nature by relevant legal protection and conservation measures;
- promote public knowledge and enhancement of the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage by campaigns to alert the public at large and by placing particular emphasis on the promotion of tourism;
- study the possibility of pooling their efforts to preserve and maintain certain exceptional industrial complexes which are part of the common historic heritage of Europe as a whole;

on the basis of the principles set out in the appendix to this recommendation;

Asks the Secretary General to transmit the text of this Recommendation to non-member States, Parties or invited to become Parties, to the European Cultural Convention and/or to the Convention for the Safeguard of the Architectural Heritage of Europe.

I. AIMS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The rapid development of industrial civilisation, the new types of production and employment resulting from the recent economic crisis and the technological explosion which is typical of our age and society, have led to far-reaching upheavals in whole sectors of industrial activity, with the consequent major change in urban or suburban landscapes involving the sometimes total disappearance of buildings, installations or vestiges of industrial activity.

Today, Europe is becoming aware of the technical, cultural and social value of this heritage as a whole which conceals an important part of the collective memory and European identity and some of whose elements deserve to be protected as part of the heritage.

The series of colloquies organised by the Council of Europe around that theme at Lyon (France) "The industrial heritage, what policies?", Madrid (Spain) "Engineering and public works: a new dimension of the heritage", Bochum (Federal Republic of Germany) "Mining engineering monuments as a cultural heritage" and Durham (United Kingdom) "Recording

the industrial heritage", has highlighted the role of this heritage in post-industrial society and the need to implement protection and maintenance policies which take into account its specific nature. In adopting this approach to a specific category of the historic heritage, the aim is not to consider only buildings, technical monuments, sites or objects, but also a physical environment, a corpus of knowledge, techniques and ways of life.

II. MEASURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, SURVEY AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE

1. This heritage should be systematically identified by:

i. establishing or continuing detailed surveys which take into account the multidisciplinary character of this heritage and can be used for protection and enhancement policies;

ii. identifying significant sites and places, particularly those whose geographical situation makes access difficult (small hydraulic works, small dams, disused mines ...) and which are harder to protect;

iii. promoting programmes of study and research on the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage by:

- public bodies responsible for the management of the heritage,

- university and scientific research institutions, as well as in professional circles,

- the industrial and commercial companies concerned, whilst fostering sponsorship by firms to that end,

- associations, organisations and private associations engaged in the defence and promotion of this heritage;

iv. a better use of human resources by, in particular, calling on early retired or retired professionals in the context of the enterprise or outside, not only with a view to analysing and protecting archives but also to techniques, know-how and the operation of tools, machines and installations.

2. For this purpose modern and high performance methods and resources should be used in accordance with common criteria defined at European level.

III. MEASURES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE

The scale and extent of the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage, as well as its very nature, make it necessary to adopt specific protection and conservation measures in the wider framework of heritage policies. It would be impossible to seek to protect all the technical or industrial constructions existing in Europe, even if they had a certain historic or scientific value.

Selection is necessary more than in any other sector of the heritage. Sometimes, the mere identification of the building, tool or object represents in itself a form of

conservation. This selection will have to be made so as to ensure a balanced representation of the different branches of production. It is also important to associate owners and enterprises in this task. It is necessary to:

1. Promote, at European level, protection and conservation policies for the technical, industrial and civil engineering heritage by:

i. adopting appropriate legislative measures adapted to the nature of this heritage;

ii. defining the framework of a land policy for deserted industrial areas, which represent reserve areas for future intervention in the form of research and possible protection;

iii. mounting pilot research and conservation programmes at regional level.

2. Set up strategies for providing incentives by:

i. promoting sponsorship by enterprises based on tax incentives for participation in the salvage and enhancement of this heritage, even in sectors of activities which are in no way connected with the sponsor firm;

ii. fostering the selective conservation by enterprises of archives which retrace their history, notably plans and other data concerning the construction of technical and industrial buildings and civil engineering works and production processes;

iii. urging enterprises not to destroy all outdated material and to keep at least a number of specimens.

IV. MEASURES TO ALERT THE PUBLIC TO THE TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE

Scientific knowledge and alerting the public to the industrial, technical and civil engineering heritage foster its protection and do much to encourage the implementation of projects designed to conserve, restore and enhance it. To that end, it is up to the public authorities to:

1. promote the training of specialists in this sector at university and technical levels or in the crafts, in a spirit of interdependence between scientific disciplines and an approach directed towards the heritage;

2. organise specific campaigns to provide information for and alert:

i. local and regional elected representatives in order to attract their attention both to the historic value of this heritage and to the possibilities resulting from action centred on

enhancement and new forms of use, including the promotion of tourism by organising specific cultural routes and encouraging industrial tourism;

ii. professional circles, often the owners and managers of the installations concerned, in order to make them aware that the value of their heritage does not lie solely in production;

iii. young people at school, who constitute a particularly receptive audience for this type of message;

iv. the public at large, whose knowledge of the historic heritage is generally restricted to monuments and groups of buildings; the development of specialised museums as well as initiatives such as "open days" in enterprises still in production or focussing attention on the industrial heritage on the occasion of European heritage days can do much to make all citizens aware of the prominent place of industrial installations in the historic heritage; local authorities have an essential role to play as a link with the public by organising and promoting industrial tourism; specific cultural routes would fit perfectly into such a programme for arousing awareness.

V. MEASURES TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATION AND INTERVENTION AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

In a number of hypotheses, the work to be done presupposes wider support than that which could be given by the authorities or private circles at regional or even national level. European co-operation would thus make it easier to respond to the objectives and could be expressed in the following forms:

- consultation and the co-ordination of initiatives among the competent authorities of the states in respect of strategies to be defined for the protection and enhancement of the technical and industrial heritage, particularly in the context of the application of and follow-up to the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe;
- concrete co-operation in respect of local projects of exceptional importance and having a European dimension in which those concerned in a number of states would pool their know-how and investments with a view to mounting large-scale operations.

The implementation of European projects might be possible with the support of:

- Council of Europe technical assistance programmes;
- supplementary financial assistance from the structural funds of the European institutions or sponsorship on the part of enterprises.