

Resolution criteria and methods of cataloguing ancient buildings and historical or artistic sites (66/19)

(Adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 29th March 1966)

The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to Recommendation 365 (1963) of the Consultative Assembly;

Having regard to their decision at the 134th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies to transmit to the Council for Cultural Co-operation the proposal contained therein for a European Conference on the development of ancient buildings and historic or artistic sites;

Being informed of the results of the Symposium organised by the Council for Cultural Co-operation at Barcelona and at Palma from 17th to 19th May 1965;

Having noted Recommendation 22 of the CCC on "Criteria and methods of cataloguing ancient buildings and historical or artistic sites";

Acutely concerned at the growing danger which threatens at once to compromise the characteristic physiognomy of Europe and to dissipate a cultural, economic and touristic capital of inestimable value;

Considering:

That this preoccupation corresponds to that which is prompting UNESCO's campaign, which testified to the vital importance attached by the international organisations to the preservation of the cultural heritage of all mankind;

That this anxiety led a number of authorities in the field to form the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS);

That it is essential to remedy as a matter of urgency a situation which constitutes an irrevocable threat to our civilisation;

That it is impossible to safeguard such a heritage effectively before having identified the assets of which-it is comprised;

That it is therefore essential first of all to compile a protective inventory,

Urges the member Governments of the Council of Europe to pursue forthwith a policy aimed at:

1. taking without delay such steps as are 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 according to the:

- criteria,

- methods,
- model index card,
- terminology,

laid down in Chapter II of the report of Symposium A of the Council for Cultural Co-operation;

(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;

2. designing these national protective inventories for subsequent use as constituent parts of a central consolidated protective inventory at the European level.