

## **Resolution interim measures for the protection of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites (72/20)**

(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 and of the preparatory work concerning legislation relating to the preservation and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites;

Realising that this work and the drafting and implementation of the legislation and regulations required is bound to take several years;

Anxious that in the meantime interim measures should be introduced to afford protection against the dangers threatening the cultural heritage of monuments and sites;

Being aware of the vital role that falls to the local authorities in the implementation of policy for the preservation and rehabilitation of monuments, groups of buildings and sites of historical or artistic interest, and of their responsibilities in this regard both now and in the future,

Recommends that member governments:

1. request all the competent authorities to introduce interim measures to prevent the demolition of monuments, groups of buildings and sites of historical or artistic interest and the deterioration of historic towns and picturesque villages;
2. invite the local authorities to adopt whatever interim measures may be necessary to safeguard the cultural heritage of monuments and sites for which they are responsible.

### **Explanatory memorandum**

The aims of the Intergovernmental Work Programme of the Council of Europe relative to the protection of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites and its inclusion in regional development policy include the adaptation of the legislation and regulations of the member States in order to meet the requirements of active conservation and to make the cultural heritage of monuments and sites an accepted part of contemporary society.

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 in this field. It intends to achieve its aim by defining general principles to serve as a basis for drawing up recommendations to member governments, a guide for local authorities and a charter for mass distribution.

However, in view of the time needed to carry out this work, the Committee on Monuments and Sites considered that before they achieved their aim much of the cultural heritage of monuments and sites in Europe might be disfigured by the growing

dangers with which it is threatened.

For this reason, at its proposal, the Committee of Ministers has adopted Resolution (72) 20, in which it recommends member governments of the Council of Europe - and through them the local authorities - to introduce immediately interim measures to protect the cultural heritage of monuments and sites.

With a view to taking the appropriate action, the governments of the member States might deem it advisable to circulate the resolution as widely as possible to the ministries concerned, the most obvious of which are the Ministries of culture, the environment, education, equipment and planning, as well as to all local authorities.