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Or. English

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Europe's Endangered Heritage

Rapporteur: Ms Vesna MARJANOVIĆ, Serbia, Socialist Group

A. Draft resolution¹

1. The Assembly recalls that culture and heritage play a fundamental role in upholding democratic values and building citizenship: they embed cultural identity, deepen the understanding and respect for others, and nurture the respect for cultural diversity.

2. Citizen participation and non-governmental initiatives are crucial drivers to rescue endangered heritage. Awareness raising and education about the value of cultural heritage for the society are essential to get citizens involved in projects for its conservation as well as its continuous use as a "living heritage". The Assembly therefore stresses the need to build a stronger link between education and heritage, with a view to engage people, especially youth, with their history and culture.

3. Moreover, the Assembly believes that economic development and protection of heritage are not in contradiction. Numerous examples show that investments made in heritage conservation can make significant contribution to economic and social development. However, new innovative mechanisms and partnerships are needed to achieve those goals better and more systematically.

4. The Assembly therefore underlines that heritage conservation needs long-term integrated strategies, coherent policies including investment plans, which should take account not only of the costs of heritage conservation projects, but also of the potential of heritage conservation as a key element in socio-economic regeneration projects and of its democratic value for the society.

5. Accordingly, the Assembly recommends that the member States of the Council of Europe:

5.1. Concerning strategy and policy design

5.1.1. Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for the Society (ETS No. 199, "Faro Convention") and the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) if they have not done so yet, and develop national strategies which take into account cultural heritage according to the principles laid down in these conventions;

5.1.2. conduct national surveys of heritage under statutory protection to identify endangered heritage, establish priorities for action, decide upon the most relevant action for each heritage site, and help direct resources to where they are most needed, bearing in mind the right balance between monuments of architectural/historic value and smaller heritage sites of community value;

5.1.3. mainstream heritage protection into decision making in relation to planning and policy, at national, regional and local level, include "heritage impact assessment" alongside environmental impact assessment and use heritage as a key element in socio-economic regeneration projects;

5.1.4 where feasible, conduct regional specific surveys to consider also heritage which is not yet under statutory protection to identify endangered heritage sites of value for the local community which could be included in regional development plans;

¹ Draft resolution adopted unanimously by the committee on 3 December 2013.

5.1.5 introduce regular reporting on initiatives undertaken to safeguard endangered heritage in national parliaments and engage with the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the European Union to harmonise data related to endangered heritage and share best practice and knowledge;

5.1.6 encourage cooperation between the Ministries responsible for Heritage and for Education with a view to raise awareness of young people to the value of heritage and help them strengthen cultural understanding and democratic citizenship based on lessons learnt from heritage and experiences of democracy and human exchanges based on heritage interpretation;

5.1.7 develop integrated and innovative heritage-led strategies for monuments, historic towns, local and regional development using the Council of Europe's guidance and methodologies as developed within the framework of the "Technical Cooperation and Consultancy programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural heritage", the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape initiative and the experience shared within the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR);

5.2. Concerning policy implementation

5.2.1 review the appropriate level for decision-making concerning heritage in danger to ensure coherency between national, regional and local levels, which is an issue of relevance particularly in decentralised states;

5.2.2 improve coordination between government institutions, local authorities, heritage institutions, museums, academies and other partners to overcome "deadlock situations" associated with endangered heritage, often due to complex legal and ownership issues;

5.2.3 ensure regular inspection of heritage sites (using also digital technology) and harmonise data and relevant information gathering to monitor change and identify problems in order to facilitate regular maintenance;

5.2.4 review standards and guidelines for maintenance, conservation, restoration and rehabilitation as a practical approach to manage change (appropriate materials and techniques), and provide tailored training for project and site management;

5.3. Concerning financial and technical support

5.3.1 ensure a level playing field between the conservation and the construction sector and introduce financial incentives for conservation and restoration projects, such as tax reductions, soft loans, insurance premiums and support to owners to help them face extra costs due to specific heritage requirements and fees of accredited professionals;

5.3.2 pool knowledge and know-how in crafts and conservation skills including scientific analysis, digital recording of heritage and project management;

5.3.3 develop training programmes for professionals in different sectors and share good practice in urban regeneration projects, community engagement, use of economic tools, etc;

5.3.4 give recognition to and support the activities of heritage conservation groups working at national and local level.

6. The Parliamentary Assembly invites the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to promote cooperation, exchange of expertise and practical experience between local and regional authorities, to better safeguard endangered heritage.

B. Draft recommendation²

1. The Parliamentary Assembly, with reference to its Resolution [...] on *Europe's endangered heritage*, stresses the importance of heritage in shaping individual and collective cultural identity and promoting mutual understanding.
2. The Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for the Society (ETS No. 199, "Faro Convention") and the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) set a framework for sound cultural and natural heritage preservation policies. The Assembly therefore considers that specific activities should be envisaged to facilitate implementation of these instruments through technical assistance and exchange of good practice at operational levels.
3. Moreover, the Assembly strongly believes that there should be greater coherency of action between the Council of Europe, the European Union and UNESCO at the European level. In this respect, the Assembly welcomes the exemplary joint programme and the tangible results of the "Ljubljana process", a joint initiative between the Council of Europe, the European Union and member states in South East Europe, which developed innovative partnerships and pilot action to be replicated for the rehabilitation of 186 emblematic monuments and heritage sites in the region.
4. Therefore, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:
 - 4.1 encourage integrated activities between culture, heritage, education and youth sectors of the Council of Europe with a view to provide guidance to the member States on innovative ways of interlinking heritage with the process of building democratic citizenship;
 - 4.2 provide support for member States to exchange good practice based on standards and principles of the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005) and provide assistance to assist member States in implementing the specific provisions of the Convention;
 - 4.3 continue to support innovative Council of Europe integrated approaches through the development of its "Technical Cooperation and Consultancy programme related to the integrated conservation of the cultural heritage" pilot projects in the member States, by focusing on needs and requirements related to single monuments conservation or restoration, historic towns rehabilitation and local and regional development;
 - 4.4 continue to support the European Heritage Network (HEREIN) as a unique governmental institutions' network and platform of convergence for harmonising and collecting relevant information related to heritage and developing a shared knowledge base;
 - 4.5 continue to support regional approaches, including in South-East Europe, South-Caucasus, Black Sea and other European regions, with a view to define regional strategies, strengthen trans-national cooperation, and develop specific pilot projects which could benefit to all member States, including in particular the Ljubljana Process and the Community-Led Urban Strategies for Historic Towns.

² Draft recommendation adopted unanimously by the committee on 3 December 2013.