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## Reflection group „EU and cultural heritage” Report and actions

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## Cultural Heritage and EU

No specific approach for cultural heritage at EU-level

### Cultural heritage is:

- ✓ Primarily the responsibility of the Member States
- ✓ Usually classified under general notion of 'Culture'
- ✓ Subject to subsidiarity principle of EU

Legal basis: Lisbon Treaty (2007), art. 167

Agenda for culture

- **Art 3.3, EU shall:**

*respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.*

## Cultural Heritage & EU

### The lack of horizontal integration of cultural heritage across all activities of the EU

- ✓ Cultural heritage is often affected directly and indirectly by EU legislation, policies and funding
- ✓ Concept of mainstreaming (included in article 167 of Lisbon Treaty) requires special attention
- ✓ Could lead to a more effective monitoring of EU legislation and policies
- ✓ Also problem at national level
- ✓ Positive evolution: Cultural heritage has recently been included in internal impact assessments of EC



## Cultural Heritage & EU

### Lack of organisation and visibility of the broad heritage sector at EU-level

- ✓ Recent launch of “European Heritage Alliance 3.3”
- ✓ Problem often starts at national level, not only at EU-level
- ✓ Possible answer: an umbrella organisation
- ✓ First step: structural cooperation between e.g. EHLF, EAC and HEREIN aisbl

# Declaration of Bruges

## Conference ‘Cultural heritage: a resource for Europe. The benefits of interaction’

### Main purposes:

- ✓ Called for a pro-active role of the broad heritage sector vis-à-vis the developments, challenges and opportunities which present themselves within European policy
- ✓ Interacting with the European policy-making level
- ✓ Ensuring that potential of cultural heritage is better incorporated in the general policy of the EU
- ✓ Setting up an umbrella organisation on the European level, representing several actors, such as: governments, professionals, academics, civil society etc.

These issues have become the main purpose for the establishment of the

**Reflection Group „EU and Cultural Heritage”**

## Reflection group „EU and cultural heritage”

- ✓ Established under the auspices of Government of Flanders
- ✓ Gathers experts nominated by national authorities and observers from European governmental networks on cultural heritage (including CoE)

### Activity in 2011 - 2012:

- ✓ 3 Group meetings in Brussels and Warsaw (framework for further work and mapping)
- ✓ Meeting of Group representatives with European Commission
- ✓ Meeting of Group representatives with EAC, EHLF and HEREIN aisbl

**2012** – Polish chairmanship in works of Reflection Group executed by the National Heritage Board of Poland on behalf of the Polish government

## Priorities of the Reflection Group

- ✓ Increase cooperation and join forces and achieve higher synergies between on-going initiatives in the heritage sector in Europe;
- ✓ Compensate lack of mainstreaming of heritage issues by enforcing dialogue with EC, developing tools and channels, and establishing a contact point with the EU institutions;
- ✓ Initiate a specific approach on added value of cultural heritage at EU level (preparing a document on EU policy towards cultural heritage together with EU presidencies 2013-2014, as well as enabling the gathering of reliable and comparable data on economic benefits of cultural heritage).

## Increase cooperation and join forces: achieve higher synergies between on-going initiatives

- ✓ **Action 1:** Exploit synergy through collaboration between EAC, HEREIN aisbl and EHLF
- ✓ **Action 2:** Analysis of actors, their roles and duties and information flows at EU-level
- ✓ **Action 3:** Open up a more structured dialogue with most important civil society organisations in the field of cultural heritage at EU-level



## Actions to compensate the lack of mainstreaming

- ✓ **Action 4:** The reflection group continues to act as contact point and facilitator between the governmental cultural heritage sector and the EU
- ✓ **Action 5:** Analysis of actors, their roles and duties and information flows at EU-level
- ✓ **Action 6:** Member States participating in the reflection group develop actions towards their own representatives in the different council working groups

## Initiate a specific approach on added value of cultural heritage at EU-level

- ✓ **Action 7:** The European Heritage Heads Forum takes care of a better diffusion and follow up of its final statement, especially at EU-level
- ✓ **Action 8:** Preparation of Council Conclusions during the next Presidencies on specific policy approach of cultural heritage
- ✓ **Action 9:** Inclusion of cultural heritage as a theme in the next work plan of culture
- ✓ **Action 10:** The EHHF members are invited to create a temporary taskforce to work on a common methodology for collecting and monitoring socio-economic data of cultural heritage
- ✓ **Action 11:** Upcoming presidencies of the Council of the EU are invited to develop activities or strategies to put the concerns of cultural heritage on the EU-agenda



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*Thank you for your attention!*

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