



CULTURAL HERITAGE
A BRIDGE TOWARDS A SHARED FUTURE

Extraordinary Session of the International Working Group
(Sofia, Bulgaria – 20 March 2009)

1. Introduction

The 2009 edition of the annual Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe, on the topic “Cultural Heritage – a Bridge towards a Shared Future” will represent a turning point in the continuation of this cooperation framework. The approaching conclusion of the first five years of activities calls on the one hand for a thorough assessment of the results so far achieved, while on the other it poses the need of re-shaping the very structure, contents, and objectives of the entire exercise, so as to better tune them on the mutated conditions and on the new challenges ahead.

The evaluation of the lesson learned shall thus proceed hand in hand with the analysis of common expectations and of the available resources, in order to define shared and feasible goals for future action.

These objectives can only be achieved through a participatory approach, based on the active contribution of all partners and on an open, continuous exchange of ideas towards the definition of shared conclusions. The present IWG extraordinary session is intended to initiate such a process, bearing in mind our common commitment to the strengthening of dialogue and sustainable development through the enhancement of South-East European cultural heritage in all its richness and diversity.

2. Tentative agenda

19 March

Arrival of participants – Accommodation at Hotel Central Park

20 March

First Session

- 09.15 Welcoming addresses
- 10.00 The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in SEE: preparation, objectives, programme and documents
 - Organisational details
 - Ministerial declaration and revised action plan: ideas and proposals (round table)
- 11.15 Coffee Break
- 11.45 Ministerial declaration and revised action plan (continuation of round table)
- 12.45 Conclusions

20 March

13.00 Lunch

Second Session

- 15.00 Operational follow-up to previous ministerial conferences: update on ongoing and planned activities
- 15.20 The 2009 Forum of SEE Heads of State on dialogue among civilisations: preparation and objectives
- 15.50 Establishing of a Summer Heritage Academy - Presentation by prof. Rumiana Mihneva
- 16.10 Presentation of the project "Istanbul 2010 – Cultural Capital of Europe": possible participation of SEE countries.
- 16.30 Enhancing cooperation on culture and cultural heritage in SEE: objectives, resources and coordination (round table)
- 17.30 Conclusions
- 18.00 End of works
- 20.00 Dinner

21 March

Cultural visits and departure of participants.