



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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World Heritage

31 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-07/31.COM/11A.1
Paris, 10 May 2007
Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty first Session
Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June – 2 July 2007

Item 11A of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up on the Periodic Report for Europe

11A.1 Follow-up on the Periodic Report for Europe

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the European Region presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

Decisions containing boundary clarifications as a follow-up to the European Periodic Reporting exercise and the Retrospective Inventory are contained in document *WHC-07/31.COM/11A.2*.

Draft Decision: 31 COM 11A.1, see Point II.

I. Follow-up on the Periodic Report for Europe

1. In 2006, at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee approved the Periodic Report for the European Region. Subsequently steps were taken to implement the Committee's Decisions **30 COM 11 A.1** and **30 COM 11 A.2**.
2. As a follow-up, Circular Letter CL/WHC-06/05 of 15 September 2006 was sent to all 48 States Parties. 19 replies were received, most of them indicating their agreement to the data sharing with the Council of Europe and other partners.
3. Following the Committee session, the publication of the European Periodic Report was prepared as "*Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006*" and published as World Heritage Paper number 20 in February 2007 to be disseminated both in hardcopy and electronic version available on the World Heritage Centre's website (<http://whc.unesco.org>). It also includes a CD ROM with all sub-regional reports and site datasheets.
4. A presentation of results of the European Periodic Report was made by the World Heritage Centre at the launch of the European Heritage Days organized by the Council of Europe in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, in September 2006. Preliminary meetings were also organized between the European Commission and representatives of the World Heritage Centre both in St Petersburg and Brussels.
5. Consultative processes among the European States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre started to address follow-up activities to the European Report. A number of sub-regional meetings were organized.
6. The Meeting for *Western Europe* (Paris, 23-24 October 2006) organized by the French authorities focused on the follow up to the decision of the Committee on European Periodic Reporting (by establishing priority actions for Western European sub-region, and the difficulties of the establishment of statements of significance/outstanding universal value, sharing of best practice examples as well as reflections on the complex harmonization of the Tentative Lists at the bi-national or sub-regional level. A follow-up meeting in Vienna has been proposed by the Austrian authorities (2-3 May 2007).
7. The meeting on *South Eastern Europe* (Thessalonica, Greece, 10-11 December 2006) hosted by the Greek authorities, reviewed the strengthening of regional cooperation through the exchange of knowledge and experience and in particular encouraged the revision and harmonisation of Tentative Lists in order to achieve a balanced representation of all types of heritage. The meeting focused on co-operation for the promotion of transboundary and transnational nominations, the participation of the local community and on strategies for cultural tourism as factors in social cohesion and economic development, as cultural tourism is a crucial issue for all countries of Southeast Europe. The meeting also focused on best practices in cultural heritage management and protection. For natural heritage and cultural landscape management a specific extrabudgetary project was developed with the Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, Istituto Superiore sui Sistemi Territoriali per l'innovazione (SiTI) and the German Environmental Foundation (DBU) to follow up on results of the European Periodic Reporting exercise and to enhance capacity building in site management for this post-conflict region. Two training coordination meetings were also organized with the participation of IUCN, the UNESCO Venice Office and the World Heritage Centre.

8. The *Mediterranean* Periodic Reporting follow-up meeting (Madrid, Spain, 19-20 February 2007) was organized by the Spanish authorities. The meeting reviewed the Periodic Reporting results and perspectives, harmonisation of Tentative Lists (identification of priorities, possible cooperation between State Parties), management tools and the Action Plan for the Mediterranean sub-region. It was decided to strengthen co-operation for the Harmonisation of the Tentative Lists, for best practice management and the promotion of transboundary, transnational and heritage itinerary nominations and the collaboration on these issues with other sub-regions as well as with other regions of the world.
9. The Finnish authorities have proposed to host a meeting for *Nordic and Baltic Europe* in Helsinki, from 3 to 4 May 2007. This meeting will be organized in co-operation with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.
10. The Polish authorities have proposed to organize a meeting for *Central and Eastern Europe* in the autumn of 2007.
11. In addition, Periodic Reporting was discussed at a number of national World Heritage meetings as a follow-up to Decision **30 COM 11A.1** (e.g. Sweden, Norway).
12. From all meetings, it became evident that more time is needed for the preparation of the statements of significance/outstanding universal value in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, as well as for the preparation or update of management plans for World Heritage properties. A critical point noted was also the lack of a reliable database for site managers.
13. An updated overview timetable with budget implications is provided below as requested in Decision **30 COM 11A.1** paragraph 15:

Timeframe	Activities In order of priority	Follow-up actions	Budget
2007-2008	<p>(1) Follow-up to changes of names, criteria, boundaries and buffer zones and statements of significance;</p> <p>(2) Provide detailed planning of follow-up meetings and harmonisation meetings of Tentative Lists on web-page</p> <p>(3) Specific Training workshops as per needs identified</p>	<p>(1) Follow-up to Circular Letter of 23 January 2006 ; Retrospective Inventory Project (see also draft Decision 31 COM 11A.2)</p> <p>(2) Inform States Parties and Focal Points</p> <p>(3) Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre to identify in order of priority needs by sub-region</p>	<p>(1) States Parties ; Advisory Bodies/World Heritage Fund</p> <p>(2) States Parties, World Heritage Fund; Extrabudgetary</p> <p>(3) States Parties, World Heritage Fund; Extrabudgetary</p>
2008-2010	(1) Ensure that all changes required are being processed by 2008	(1) Decision by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd	(1) World Heritage Fund and States Parties

	(2) Review of activities including training carried out and re-orientation (3) Progress report to the Committee and detailed action plan 2008-2011	session (2008) (2) World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies (3) Decision by World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (2008)	(2) World Heritage Fund n.a.
2011	(1) Mid-term evaluation (2) Detailed report to the World Heritage Committee and preparation of next cycle of European Periodic Reporting	(1) Presentation to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (2012) (2) Decision by World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (2012)	(1) World Heritage Fund, extrabudgetary (2) World Heritage Fund, extrabudgetary
2015	(1) Finalization of 2 nd European Periodic Reporting to the World Heritage Committee	(1) Presentation to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (2016)	(1) World Heritage Fund

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 30 COM 11A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/11A.1,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1** and **30 COM 11A.2** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Encourages the European States Parties to submit any changes to names, criteria, boundaries and statements of significance in a timely fashion and in accordance with deadlines outlined in the Operational Guidelines as a follow-up to the European Periodic Reporting, at the latest by **1 February 2008**;*
4. *Takes note of the results of the subregional meetings on the follow-up to Periodic Reporting for Western Europe, Mediterranean and South Eastern Europe and further notes training initiatives financed through extrabudgetary sources;*
5. *Recommends that States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues in particular with focused follow-up meetings and welcomes the initiative of the*

Austrian authorities for a second Western European meeting, the Finnish authorities to host the Nordic and Baltic Europe meeting, both in May 2007, as well as the Polish authorities to host a meeting for Eastern and Central Europe in September 2007;

6. *Requests States Parties to provide to the World Heritage Centre updated and detailed contact information on site managers in Europe in order to establish a reliable database;*
7. *Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the European Periodic Report for examination at its 32nd session in 2008.*