

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

### SYNOPSIS N° 2002/134

28 November 2002

**The Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage (Committee on Culture, Science and Education)** meeting in Venice on the Island of San Servolo on 21-22 November 2002, with Mr Legendre in the chair:

- held a colloquy on the promotion of art history in Europe, rapporteur Mr O'Hara, opened by Mr Azzolini, Leader of the Italian delegation and Vice President of the Assembly, and Mr Busatto, President of the Province of Venetia with the participation of experts from Athens, Brno, Duino, London, Paris, Rome, Siena, Strasbourg, Venice and Yerevan;
- was received by Mr Galan, President of the Region of Veneto;
- was informed of the situation of the cultural heritage in Venice on the basis of presentations
  - by Mr Camuffo on the analysis of water levels in the Lagoon,
  - by Mr Zorzi on the work of the private organisations and
  - by Mr Cesari and Mr Elbert on the European Centre for the skills of architectural heritage conservation;
- visited the workshops of the European Centre on San Servolo and the Armenian Monastery on the Island of San Lazzaro and experienced for itself the effects of high water (aqua alta) in Venice;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
The Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly  
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly

Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General  
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers  
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- expressed its support for the continuation of the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (President Baroness Hooper);
- held an exchange of views on tax incentives for conservation (rapporteur Baroness Hooper) and decided to take up the matter with the Cultural Committee of the European Parliament;

- discussed items for possible intervention by the General Rapporteur on Cultural Heritage, Mrs Melandri, asking her
  - to investigate flood damage in the Czech Republic, reconstruction in Kaliningrad, and damage to St Sophia in Kiev
  - to prepare motions for the initiation of reports on the privatisation of state cultural property and on the efficiency of state spending on cultural heritage
  - to review follow up to the work by her predecessor Mrs Stepova on the Ilisu dam, the Romanian national treasure and cultural heritage of Cyprus;
- was informed in the latter context by its former chairman Mr Hadjidemetriou of new UN proposals relating to the ownership of religious property in Cyprus;
- was informed by the secretariat on the meeting of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CD-PAT, Strasbourg, 7-9 October), by Mr Legendre on Europa Nostra (Bruges, 10 October) and by Mr Valk on the seminar of the European Museum Forum (Parma, 18-19 October);
- was informed by Mr Legendre of his recent contacts in Beirut with members of the Lebanon Parliament interested in cooperating in the cultural field;
- noted with interest the forthcoming meeting in Unesco of experts on the return of cultural property (Paris 3-6 December) and asked Mr Nachbar to follow the question together with the secretariat;
- confirmed the following meetings in 2003: in Paris on 28 March (Senate) for a hearing on the pillage of African art and in Strasbourg on 19-20 June on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Europa Nostra;
- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris (Council of Europe) 9-10 am on 5 December 2002 for consideration of the Council of Europe Museum Prize.

Christopher Grayson and João Ary