

15 October 2007
Synopsis No 2007/42

To the Members of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Vilnius on 11-13 October 2007

The Sub-Committee on the Cultural Heritage (of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education) meeting in Vilnius on 11-13 October 2007 with Mr Emanuelis Zingeris and Baroness Hooper in the chair:

- held a **Conference on international heritage conventions and other major texts**, together with DG IV of the Council of Europe and in cooperation with the Parliament and Government of Lithuania and with the participation in particular of:

- Mr Jonas Jucas, Lithuanian Minister of Culture
- Mrs Catherine Lalumière (former Secretary General of the Council of Europe)
- Mr Albinas Kuncevičius, Director of cultural heritage, Lithuanian Ministry of Culture
- Mr Alfredas Jomantas (Lithuanian Ministry of Culture), Chair of CDPAT
- Mr Jean-François Seguin (France), Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the Landscape Convention
- Mrs Jelka Pirkovic (Slovenia). Mr Juris Dambis (Latvia) and Mr Mykelbust (Norway) former chairs of CDPAT, together with many experts who had participated in the preparation of the Council of Europe conventions and in their implementation
- Mr Mounir Bouchenaki (representing Unesco and Iccrom)
- Ms Marina Schneider (Unidroit)
- Mr Jean-Louis Luxen (Icomos)
- Mr Guilherme d'Oliveira Martins (for Europa Nostra)
- Ms Helena Edgren (chair of the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Cultural heritage)

and, following a summing up by Mr McIntosh, adopted in conclusion a "Declaration of Vilnius" in support of the Framework Convention on the value of cultural heritage for society (Faro 2005)

- met separately in the Tolerance Centre and was welcomed by:

- Mr Virginjus Domarkas, Chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas Committee on Culture and Education
- Mr Zigmantas Balcytis, Chairman of the Lithuanian Delegation to PACE
- Mr Mark Zingeris, Director of the Tolerance Centre

cc: Secretary General and secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Directors General
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of Communication and Research
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- was informed on **cultural heritage in Lithuania and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania** by:
 - Mr Vilius Kavaliauskas, Assistant to the Prime Minister
 - Mr Vincas Karciauskas, Chairman of the Vilnius City Council Commission for the investigation of illegal building
 - Dr Giedre Mickunaite, Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts
 - Mrs Grazina Dremaite and Mrs Jurate Markeviciene, State Commission for Cultural Heritage
 - Dr Aleksandr Kolbasko, European Humanities University (Vilnius, formerly Minsk)

and, learning of opposition in the Lithuanian courts to defence of cultural heritage by NGOs and individuals, decided to initiate a more general investigation into **case law regarding cultural heritage protection and the application of Europe's cultural heritage conventions**

- was informed on the **situation of the Jewish heritage** in Lithuania by Dr Dalia Epsteinaite, Head of the Tolerance Centre Historical Department, and supported its chairman's appeal for the Vilnius authorities to exercise due respect with regard to the redevelopment of the Jewish ghetto and Snipiskes cemetery
- exchanged views on preparation of "**Vilnius European Cultural Capital 2009**", following a presentation by Ms Irena Garbeniene, Marketing and Communications Director, and with a contribution Ms Angela Hooper, former Lord Mayor of Westminster
- visited the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum and the historic centre of **Old Vilnius** and the surrounding conurbation
- with regard to **cultural heritage in the South Caucasus**, called for further action to be taken following the collapse of the study-visit planned by Mr O'Hara
- was informed by Mr Sudarenkov about ongoing European consultation with regard to the **involvement of the private sector in cultural heritage management in Russia**
- with regard to its own future work programme:
 - underlined the importance of **action at the political level against tall buildings in historic centres** and asked Mr Legendre to request that the subject be referred for report to the committee (Doc 11336)
 - was informed by Mr Legendre of the possibility of visiting the new Centre for Architecture and Heritage in the Palais Chaillot (Trocadero, Paris)
 - was invited by Mrs Hurskainen to hold a future meeting in Imatra (Finland)
- decided to hold its next meeting in Paris on the morning of Monday 10 December 2007 (Council of Europe Office, Avenue Kléber)

Christopher Grayson