



Recommendation 1465 (2000)¹

“Europe, a common heritage” – a Council of Europe campaign

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly welcomes the Council of Europe’s “Europe, a common heritage” campaign and in particular as a means of bringing greater Europe together to promote cultural diversity. The Assembly is also aware of the political and social relevance of respect for such diversity, in particular with regard to minorities.
2. This campaign has been appropriately timed to mark a quarter of a century since European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975. It responds to the Assembly’s call for an event to recognise the common heritage of Europe as a whole following the Council of Europe’s enlargement.
3. It is an occasion on which to highlight the main advances in heritage conservation policy. In particular the Assembly welcomes the extension of integrated conservation from urban planning to the environment and of the notion of heritage from buildings to objects, from archaeological sites to museums, from the material to the immaterial heritage of religion, customs, language or music.
4. As the Committee of Ministers has decided to include the natural heritage in the campaign, the Assembly recalls its recommendations in this area, and in particular on the need for the adoption and opening for signature of the European Landscape Convention.
5. The Assembly also asks the Committee of Ministers if this is not an appropriate moment to open negotiations on the European Charter for the Danube Basin that had been shelved in 1998.
6. The Assembly regrets the recent targeting of the cultural heritage in areas of political conflict. It recalls the mandate given to its general rapporteur to mediate in such situations ([Recommendation 788 \(1976\)](#)). It would hope that the campaign could promote a more positive image of the cultural heritage as something to be enjoyed and shared.
7. The Assembly has itself several ongoing activities that should be seen as fitting into the campaign, and notably the preparation of reports on cathedrals and other major religious buildings, on the maritime and fluvial heritage, on disused hospitals and military buildings and on cultural tourism.
8. The Assembly has so far been represented at the introductory events of the campaign. Its respective committees – in particular but not exclusively those concerned with the cultural and natural heritage – are continuing to follow the main activities of the campaign.
9. The Assembly encourages national parliaments to hold at least one specific debate on the cultural and natural heritage issues raised by the campaign.
10. With regard to the conduct of the “Europe, a common heritage” campaign, the Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
 - 10.1. call on governments to ensure that activities are launched in each country;
 - 10.2. call on member governments, on a national basis but also internationally, to increase support to non-governmental institutions and organisations pursuing the aims of this campaign;

1. See [Doc. 8729](#), report of the Committee on Culture and Education, rapporteur: Mr Hadjidemetriou. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 17 May 2000.



- 10.3. take the initiative to encourage co-ordination of the activity of intergovernmental organisations in these fields;
- 10.4. draw on the experience of this campaign to formulate clear and practical proposals for subsequent action by the Council of Europe in the heritage area.