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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The value of cultural heritage in a democratic society

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Alexander [The Earl of] DUNDEE and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Cultural diversity and the richness of cultural heritage are important assets for European economies and societies. Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognises the fundamental right of all to benefit in this way. For that, culture has to be conserved and developed.

While national public funds and the private sector contribute, the bulk of conservation and development costs of cultural assets are borne by local authorities. The economic benefits accrue to nations in the whole of Europe. Cultural assets outside large cities are often at risk. That is since the main focus is upon assets within large towns and cities where most people are. This is a further reason why regional cultural assets tend to be overlooked. The cultural heritage of many regions has also suffered due to natural disasters; sometimes there is an irreversible loss.

The Council of Europe supports cultural heritage through its Faro Convention. This has precipitated useful practical action such as the enlarged partial agreement on cultural routes. In parallel, the European Union funds cultural projects as well. Therefore it is important for the Parliamentary Assembly to raise public awareness by promoting policies for the recognition of how culture and cultural heritage assist economies and societies. They do so when necessary actions for conservation and development have been deployed throughout Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

DUNDEE Alexander, [The Earl of], United Kingdom, EC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BYRNE Liam, United Kingdom, SOC
DOKLE Namik, Albania, SOC
ECCLES Diana, United Kingdom, EC
EVANS Nigel, United Kingdom, EC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
HOWELL John, United Kingdom, EC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
LE DÉAUT Jean-Yves, France, SOC
LIDDELL-GRAINGER Ian, United Kingdom, EC
NEGUTA Andrei, Republic of Moldova, SOC
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
PRITCHARD Mark, United Kingdom, EC
SCULLY Paul, United Kingdom, EC
WILSON Phil, United Kingdom, SOC
WRIGHT Patrick, United Kingdom, NR

1. EC: European Conservatives Group
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group