



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

3rd Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights

“Protection of Cultural Heritage in the context of armed conflicts”

Rapporteur : Hon. Gabriela Canavilhas (Portugal)

Resolution

Resolution adopted on 16 February 2018 during the 12th Plenary Session in Bucharest

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Convinced* that the protection of material and immaterial cultural and historical heritage is a matter that belongs to human rights;
- b) *Further convinced that* defending cultural heritage is an international security imperative;
- c) *Expressing serious concern about* the growing acts of destruction and pillage of cultural heritage;
- d) *Underlining* the importance of cultural heritage as an essential factor for social cohesion and economic development;
- e) *Reaffirming* its commitment to the promotion and protection of cultural assets;
- f) *Recalling* the outcome of previous PAM meetings on this topic and its Resolution on the Protection of Cultural heritage, adopted on 23 February 2017 in Porto, Portugal, at the 11th PAM Plenary Session;
- g) *Stressing* the need for PAM to increase cooperation with other international organizations working on this topic, such as UNESCO, ISESCO, UNODC and the UN Security Council;
- h) *Having regard to* the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and to the UNSC Resolution 2347 adopted in 2017;

- i) *Welcoming* the adoption by the Council of Europe of the new Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property – also known as “the Nicosia Convention” - which is the only international treaty specifically dealing with the criminalisation of illicit trafficking of cultural property.
- j) *Aware of* the importance of international cooperation in this sector;
- I. ***Requests*** its Member States to reinforce substantially their efforts and cooperation in the protection of cultural sites from acts of destruction and terrorism with resolute actions;
- II. ***Encourages*** national parliaments to adopt legislative and administrative measures to prevent, avoid, stop and suppress intentional destruction of cultural heritage, in line with the UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage;
- III. ***Calls*** its Member States to implement the UNSC Resolution 2347 and the PAM Resolution on “Protection of Cultural Heritage”, unanimously adopted on 23 February 2017 during the 11th PAM Plenary Session in Porto;
- IV. ***Encourages*** all Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflicts and its Protocols, as well as the UNESCO 1970 Convention against illicit trafficking of cultural property and other relevant international conventions;
- V. ***Calls*** on all Member States to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention), as soon as possible.
- VI. ***Reaffirms*** the need of a high level of cooperation between States and their respective Ministers, national agencies and authorities, in terms of monitoring transaction and sale of cultural goods, in order to prevent terrorists and criminals profiting from illicit trafficking of cultural property in various areas of conflict;
- VII. ***Requests*** its 3rd Standing Committee and the Secretariat to dedicate a PAM specific conference on the protection of the world cultural heritage in cooperation with experts coming from different sensible areas of the Mediterranean and from the specialised unit of the *Carabinieri*;
- VIII. ***Calls*** all PAM member States to join efforts with the aim of setting international standards relating to national criminal law in this sector;
- IX. ***Invites*** all relevant institutions to include the protection of cultural heritage in the mandates of peacekeeping missions;

- X. ***Encourages*** Member States to provide for a mandatory training on cultural heritage of military groups used in conflict zones, as suggested by UNESCO with the Military Manual on Protection of Cultural Property;
- XI. ***Encourages*** the establishment of educational programmes and exchange of students and professionals should, as a way to contrast the rise of violent extremism and radicalisation.