



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”

Rapporteur: Hon. Gabriela Canavilhas (Portugal)

Resolution unanimously adopted on 23 February 2017 during the 11th PAM Plenary Session in Porto

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- a) *Concerned* by the fact that culture and historical heritage have moved to the forefront of war and armed conflict;
- b) *Considering* cultural heritage as an essential factor for economic and social development, especially for mutual understanding between the cultures of the Mediterranean;
- c) *Recalling* the outcome of its previous meetings on this topic, notably the International PAM Seminar dedicated to “The Protection of World Cultural Heritage Threatened with Destruction”, held in Rabat, Morocco, on 14-15 May 2015;
- d) *Reaffirming* its commitment on the protection of cultural assets;
- e) *Having regard to* the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- f) *Having regard to* the legal responses offered by legislative bodies of international law, such as the International Criminal Court;
- g) *Aware* of the importance of international cooperation in this sector;
- h) *Stressing* the need for PAM to further increase cooperation with other international organizations working on this issue, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO);

- 1) **Requests** Member States to increase their efforts in the protection of cultural sites from acts of destruction and terrorism;
- 2) **Encourages** national parliaments to adopt appropriate legislative, administrative, educational and technical 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;
- 3) **Requests** its 3rd Standing Committee and the Secretariat to increase cooperation with UN, the ICOM International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, Europol and Interpol in order to develop effective mechanisms for the protection of cultural assets plundered in the Mediterranean region during this period of armed conflict;
- 4) **Calls on** Member States to implement preventive multidimensional measures in order to guarantee the safeguard of populations' cultural identities;
- 5) **Urges** Member States to undertake specific initiatives aimed at educating citizens, and particularly the young ones, on this, in order to develop a long-lasting awareness of the social and economic importance of cultural assets;
- 6) **Encourages** member parliaments to build on the conclusions of the PAM meeting held in Rabat on 14-15 May 2015 on the protection of cultural heritage;
- 7) **Invites** all relevant institutions to include the protection of cultural heritage in the mandates of peacekeeping missions. We must care about the destruction of heritage in conjunction with our grave concern for the destruction of the lives of populations;
- 8) **Requests** its 3rd Standing Committee and the Secretariat to implement the recommendation of the Rabat meeting (14-15 May 2015) on the creation of a PAM Working Group on the protection of the world cultural heritage;
- 9) **Invites** all PAM member states, in particular those belonging to the EU, to make common efforts to achieve a new Council of Europe Convention on offences related to cultural property that considers criminal measures and sanctions that are needed in this field, with the aim to set international standards relating to national criminal law.