



CONCLUSIONS

9th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property Lyon, France, 28-29 February 2012

The participants of the 9th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property, held in Lyon, France on 28-29 February 2012:

AWARE of the importance of cultural heritage to all countries, and its particular vulnerability during crisis periods,

RECOGNIZING the need for strong national legislation for the protection of cultural heritage and the benefits of efficient international legal instruments and their implementation,

NOTING the crucial role of a regular exchange of information related to cases of theft of and illicit trafficking in cultural property,

TAKING NOTE of the increasing challenge, which presents the counterfeiting of all kinds of works of art and antiquities,

CONSCIENT of the need for awareness raising and specialized training on combating cultural property crimes in many countries,

RECOMMEND that member countries

ESTABLISH AND FURTHER DEVELOP a co-operation between the different agencies, such as police, customs, cultural services and others involved in the protection of cultural property on a national level,

CONCEIVE awareness raising campaigns through, among other things, the use of the media,

REVIEW their legislation, and if necessary, adapt it to the needs of an effective protection of cultural heritage,

CONSIDER ratifying the relevant international conventions, in particular, the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, if they are not yet State Parties, and implement their provisions,

CONSIDER the use of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime for investigations into illicit trafficking in cultural property,

DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE prevention measures and tools to reduce the risks of theft and looting and establish reliable inventories with photographic documentation,

ORGANIZE specialized training on fighting cultural property crimes with the assistance of concerned bodies and institutions and international Organizations,

SYSTEMATICALLY REPORT art theft cases to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for data entry and crime analysis,

REGULARLY CHECK cultural property items seized or offered for sale under doubtful circumstances against relevant databases, including INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database,

PROMOTE its public online access to other involved bodies and entities,

ENCOURAGE the use of ICOM's Red Lists as practical tools to identify categories of cultural objects subject to illicit trafficking,

ENCOURAGE authorities in charge of postal and express delivery services to strengthen checks on packages likely to contain illicit cultural property.

COLLECT national statistics of cultural property crimes in co-operation with dedicated services and institutions and send them to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for the compilation of a global survey,

RECOMMEND that the INTERPOL General Secretariat

PURSUES its initiative related to combating the trade of counterfeit art,

COLLECTS, ANALYZES AND SHARES information on routes and changing mechanisms in illicit trafficking of cultural property with the law enforcement agencies of its member countries and , when appropriate, with partner organizations,

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CARABINIERI TPC INVESTS all necessary efforts to implement Project PSYCHE aiming at modernizing INTERPOL's database,

IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH ITS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS CONCEIVES specific action aiming at assisting Member countries increasingly being used as places of transit and/or destination for illicitly trafficked cultural objects, in particular, the Middle and the Far East.

RECOMMEND that the World Customs Organization and its membership

PERFORM more Joint Customs Operations in the field of cultural heritage acknowledging their high value for the enhancement of the co-operation with the most relevant participating stakeholders.