

CONCLUSIONS

8th International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques

Lyon, France, 18-20 October 2011

The participants at the 8th International Symposium on the Theft of and Illicit Traffic in Works of Art, Cultural Property and Antiques, Lyon, France, 18-20 October 2011,

AWARE of the importance of cultural heritage to all societies,

CONSCIENT of the various risks of damages and loss, to which the cultural heritage is exposed,

RECOGNIZING the need for strong legislations and efficient international legal instruments for the protection of cultural heritage,

TAKING NOTE of the benefits of a rapid and secure exchange of information on art theft and forgery cases on an international level,

NOTING the needs for specialized training in many countries

RECOMMEND that member countries:

- (1) Initiate public awareness campaigns for cultural heritage protection with the use of the media,
- (2) Encourage owners and those responsible for premises hosting cultural heritage collections to take appropriate steps to secure the property,
- (3) Review their legislation and, where necessary, adapt it to the needs of an effective protection of cultural heritage,
- (4) Consider ratifying the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, if they are not yet State Parties, and implement its provisions,
- (5) Apply in appropriate cases the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime for investigations of illicit trafficking in cultural heritage and related crimes,

- (6) Systematically supply information on art theft, forgery and counterfeit cases to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for data entry and crime analysis purposes,
- (7) Regularly check cultural goods of doubtful origin found or offered for sale against INTERPOL's stolen works of art database and promote its public online access to other bodies and entities dealing with the protection or sale of these goods,
- (8) Organize specialized training on the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and related crimes with the assistance of involved bodies and institutions,
- (9) Collect national statistics on cultural property crimes and forward them to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for compilation of a global survey and its redistribution;

RECOMMEND that the General Secretariat:

- (1) Further explores specific action to combat counterfeiting of works of art and cultural property, i. a. by organizing a conference on this subject,
- (2) Pursues the initiative of modernization of its global works of art database in cooperation with its partners.

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