



## CONCLUSIONS

### **8th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property – Lyon, 5-6 April 2011**

The participants of the 8th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property, held in Lyon, France on 5-6 April 2011:

**CONSCIENT** of the threats to cultural heritage in countries and regions affected by civil unrest, armed conflicts and natural catastrophes, and the high risk of illicit trafficking in unlawfully removed cultural property,  
**CALL UPON** UNESCO, ICOM and INTERPOL to rapidly collect and disseminate information on cultural goods particularly at risk,

**AWARE** of the urgent need to enable all countries to effectively combat illicit trafficking in cultural property from these countries,  
**ENCOURAGE** ICOM to continue to publish Red Lists of cultural objects at risk,

**RECOGNIZING** the need for specific skills in order to effectively fight the illicit trafficking in cultural property,  
**INVITE** INTERPOL and its member countries, as well as international Organizations to organize and contribute to training sessions for law enforcement officials and representatives of judicial and cultural bodies,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the various legal specificities in many national legislations concerning the handling of cultural property cases and the lack of specialization of the authorities in charge,

**ENCOURAGE** INTERPOL member countries to provide practical guidelines to law enforcement authorities in order to enable optimum prosecution of such cases,

**AWARE** of the legal requirements of international legal assistance, the need to cope with short deadlines for their completion, and the lack of adequate knowledge concerning this matter in a lot of requesting countries,

**ENCOURAGE** INTERPOL member countries to provide useful orientation on how to collect evidence for their further use to arrange a successful international rogatory commission,

**NOTING** the important role of INTERPOL's database of stolen cultural property and the extended online access,

**ENCOURAGE** member countries to systematically provide appropriate stolen art information and its regular update to the INTERPOL General Secretariat,

**AWARE** of the huge amount of sales of cultural property and the risk concerning objects of illicit origin,

**ASK** INTERPOL in co-operation with UNESCO, ICOM and other relevant experts to elaborate and disseminate, particularly to the art market, a checklist of recommended actions to comply with due diligence prior to cultural property transactions,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the important role of e-commerce for the illicit sale of cultural property,

**ENCOURAGE** member countries to develop a close co-operation with internet platforms following the basic recommendations jointly published by ICOM, INTERPOL and UNESCO in 2007, with a view to facilitating access to confidential information for timely and effective investigations,

**RECOGNIZING** the lack of crucial documentation and inventories of cultural property in many countries,

**ASK** ICOM, UNESCO, INTERPOL and its member countries to focus on the need for establishing reliable inventories and to promote the use of Object ID for this purpose,

**TAKING NOTE** of the importance of UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Laws Database,

**ASK** member countries to systematically provide their cultural heritage legislation to UNESCO, ensure regular updates and invite INTERPOL, international Organizations and national authorities to create a direct link from their web sites to this database,

**NOTING** the increasing number of counterfeits, fakes and forgeries of all types of cultural property and works of art,

**ENCOURAGE** INTERPOL to explore taking specific action to combat this criminal activity,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its potential usefulness to address crime prevention and criminal justice aspects of illicit trafficking in cultural property,

**ASK** INTERPOL, the UNODC and other relevant international Organizations to collect information on organized criminal groups involved in the illicit trafficking in cultural property.