



CONCLUSIONS

11th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property Lyon, France, 27 – 28 February 2014

The participants of the 11th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group (IEG) on Stolen Cultural Property, held in Lyon, France on 27-28 February 2014:

ACKNOWLEDGING the full relevance of the recommendations of the 10th meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group held in Lyon on 09 – 10 April 2013,

AWARE of the importance of cultural heritage to all countries and the increasing cases of thefts and illicit trafficking in cultural property in several regions of the world, especially in countries affected by natural disasters, civil unrest or armed conflict,

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

RECOGNIZING the benefits and the importance of exchange of best practices and of increased operational cooperation to fight the illicit traffic in cultural property, in particular, between law enforcement agencies and UNESCO, UNIDROIT, UNODC, the WCO and ICOM,

REMINDING the activities of the recently created International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods of ICOM

and

NOTING other initiatives in the field promoted by other international organizations,

AWARE of the rising trend of all crimes related to counterfeit art and the damage caused by this criminal activity,

RECOMMEND that INTERPOL and its partner Organizations,

FOLLOW their efforts in searching a coordinated approach in order to obtain more complete, consistent and reliable statistical data on crimes against cultural property,

PROVIDE, within their respective mandates, special support to countries during crisis and post-crisis periods, in particular, by raising awareness and building capacity, reinforcing information exchange and priority recording of data of stolen cultural property in INTERPOL's Work of Art database,

ENCOURAGE their respective member countries to ratify the relevant international conventions, in particular, the 1954 and its two Protocols, 1970 and 2001 UNESCO Conventions, as well as the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, if they are not yet State Parties, and implement their provisions,

CONSIDER the use of the 2000 United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime for investigations into illicit trafficking in cultural property,

ENCOURAGE their respective member countries to systematically use INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database for checking cultural objects seized or offered for sale,

STRENGTHEN the cooperation with Customs Agencies through the WCO/RILO WE ARCHEO network

RECOMMEND that the General Secretariat,

SEEKS increased operational cooperation with NCBs and specialized law enforcement agencies in particular cases, which may lead to the creation of a regular Task Force,

PURSUES its efforts to support member countries in their fight against crimes related to counterfeit art, in particular, by centralizing relevant information on recognized experts, right holders and forensic institutions,

CONTINUES, in partnership with the CARABINIERI TPC, its efforts in the achievement of the Project PSYCHE aiming at modernizing INTERPOL's stolen works of art database,

WORKS in closer cooperation with the **World Customs Organization and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs)** in the field of cultural heritage in order to intercept illegally imported /exported cultural goods at the borders.