



CONCLUSIONS

The participants of the 7th Working Meeting on the Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property Stolen in Central and Eastern Europe

Jurmala, Latvia, 8 - 10 October 2013,

AWARE of the importance of the cultural heritage for all countries and the need for its protection from damages, destruction and theft,

AWARE that the Central and Eastern European countries are not only a transit area for stolen and illegal exported cultural goods, but also a place of origin and of destination,

RECOGNIZING that the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property requires the application of appropriate legislation and adequate resources,

CONVINCED that reliable inventories with photographs of good quality are the precondition for search measures and exchange of information,

CONSCIENT of the benefits arising from a well-established inter-agency co-operation on a national level,

RECOGNIZING that counteracting illicit traffic in cultural property requires co-operation on an international level,

AWARE of the rising trend in all forms of counterfeit art, fakes, forgeries and intentional misattribution of works of art and cultural heritage,

ACKNOWLEDGING the communication and investigation tools developed by the Interpol General Secretariat,

RECOMMEND member countries:

1. to review their legislation and, where necessary, adapt it to the needs of an effective protection of cultural property and on the basis of the international conventions in force,

2. to provide and regularly update UNESCO's data base of national cultural heritage laws,
3. to consider ratifying the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention if they are not already State Parties to these instruments, and implementing their provisions,
4. to examine the possible use of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime for investigations against illicit trafficking in cultural property,
5. to establish an institutionalized co-operation on a national level between all the bodies and agencies involved in the safeguarding of cultural property,
6. to encourage public-private partnership including religious institutions, universities, research institutes, and art trade professionals,
7. to encourage national art trade professionals, museums and other stakeholders to inform the police of suspicious offers of cultural property,
8. to raise public awareness of the importance of cultural heritage and the need for its protection through media campaigns and educational programs,
9. to improve the protection in public museums and other institutions, in archaeological sites and encourage private collectors and religious institutions to implement appropriate security measures as well,
10. to support the setting up of inventories including photographs, i. a. by using internationally recognized description standards, such as Object ID,
11. to regularly check offers on the art market and the sales of cultural property over the Internet, and to encourage the implementation of the "Basic Actions Concerning Cultural Objects Being Offered for Sale over the Internet", jointly recommended by UNESCO, ICOM and INTERPOL,
12. to communicate relevant information about cultural property thefts, fakes and forgeries, stolen or recovered objects, and details on the criminal individuals and networks involved in the illicit trafficking, to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for data entry and crime analysis purposes,
13. to use regularly the INTERPOL's stolen works of art database for remote queries and promote its public online access to all national law enforcement organizations, including Customs and border police, and other concerned parties (e.g. cultural institutions, museums, lawyers, insurers, art market professionals, etc.).

14. to remind the art and antiquities trade of the importance of the UNESCO Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property;
15. to remind museum professionals of the importance of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums;
16. to include measures of the due diligence for the art and antiquities trade such as keeping detailed registers including photographs of all acquired and sold objects which should be kept for the longest time possible (i.e. 30 years) and obligatory enquiries regarding the provenance of an object in their national legislation;
17. to provide the ICOM International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods with all the relevant information required for the development of the tool (contact information, tools and practices, publications etc.) through the use of the official information form.

RECOMMEND the General Secretariat:

1. to pursue its efforts to support its member countries in their fight against counterfeit art, fakes, forgeries and intentional misattribution;
2. to centralize relevant information, including, but not limited to, a list of recognized experts and scientific and forensic institutions that law enforcement agencies can refer to when investigating the fore mentioned crimes,
3. to keep on with the organization of this tri annual working meeting on the illicit Traffic in Cultural Property Stolen in Central and Eastern Europe.