

European experts group on mobility of collections
- Sub-working group on the Prevention of thefts and illicit trafficking of cultural goods -

QUESTIONNAIRE

IMPROVING THE TRACEABILITY OF CULTURAL GOODS - ACTIONS No1 & 2

The Action Plan 2008-2009 proposed to the members of this sub-group envisages to improve the traceability of cultural goods in the EU according to the recommendations of the 2004¹ and 2007² Studies financed by the European Commission. The present questionnaire aims at identifying evolutions within national frameworks based on the studies' recommendations and in the domains quoted in the Action 1 and 2 of the Action Plan.

In your replies to the questions, could you please specify the relevant website where information related to the topics can be found.

Please return this questionnaire by email to :
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by 30 July 2009

1. What modifications were brought about in your national framework concerning the traceability of cultural goods based on the inventory provided by the 2004 and 2007 Studies financed by the European Commission on the following : legislative framework, documents permitting the free movement of cultural goods, methods of identifying national cultural heritage, databases, cooperation systems?
2. Which procedures apply and what obstacles in the application as regards the origins/provenance of cultural goods purchased by Public Institutions in your country - and what type of documentation is required before acquisition by an institution ?
3. What are the obligations related to the verification of the good's origins applying to the professionals of the Art market in your country ? What is the legal and administrative procedure for the control of auction houses ? Is there any control of electronic sale on the web?
4. What is the state of the co-operation for in the prevention of theft and illicit trafficking of cultural goods between national institutions in charge of Heritage (i.e. Museums, Archives, Libraries, Churches, Castles) and Customs and Police Authorities in your country ? How is the exchange of information on thefts organised? Could you give an example and describe it (case study).
5. Would you describe the existing national practices/instructions/regulations in your country regarding collections' inventories, photographic documentation, marking of cultural goods, and establishment of collections databases ?
6. Amongst the proposals provided by the 2004 and 2007 Commission's studies, what are those that could be recommended by this sub-group?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/goods/docs/dir937/web_rapport_final_def_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/goods/docs/dir937/ebs_fr_en_20071122.pdf

7. Do you have any procedures for import control of cultural goods in your country ? If you don't, do you plan to have one? If not why ?
8. What measures (administrative, legislative and cooperative) you take to monitor the circulation of cultural goods to and from another member state ?
9. What measures do you take to raise public awareness of theft and illicit trafficking of cultural goods?
10. What possibilities of networking at EU level you envisage with the aim of preventing and fighting illicit traffic of cultural goods ?
11. Best practices in combating illicit trafficking (ie. Control of excavations, prevention measures, diplomatic cases)