

## Citizens' summary

### EU countries join their research programmes on cultural heritage

#### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- Europe **has lost much of its cultural heritage** as a result of wars, negligence, robberies and vandalism, natural catastrophes, pollution, urbanisation and environmental phenomena like climate change.
- **National research programmes are not enough** to preserve Europe's cultural heritage. An EU-wide coordinated effort is urgently needed.

#### WHAT EXACTLY WOULD CHANGE?

- EU countries would take a **joint approach** to the preservation and sustainable management of Europe's cultural heritage, by designing their national research programmes together.
- **Best practice** would be shared more efficiently and implemented in a more harmonised way.
- Europe's limited funds for public **research and development** would be used more effectively.

#### WHO WOULD BENEFIT AND HOW?

- The initiative would help to preserve cultural heritage across the EU, benefiting both **current and future generations**.

#### WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- This is a **Europe-wide issue** that cannot be successfully resolved by individual countries.
- This initiative would allow EU countries to draw up and implement a **common research agenda**, ensuring that their efforts are not fragmented or duplicated.

#### WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

- By the end of 2010.