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.