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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

11C. Follow-up to the Periodic Report for Europe

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the European Region presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007).

Decisions concerning boundary clarifications as a follow-up to the European Periodic Reporting exercise and the Retrospective Inventory are contained in document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 11C, see Point II

I. Follow-up to the Periodic Report for Europe

1. In 2006, at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee approved the Periodic Report for the European Region. Subsequently, steps were taken to implement the Committee's Decisions **30 COM 11 A.1** and **30 COM 11 A.2**, and a report was submitted to the Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007).
2. As a follow-up to Decision **31 COM 11 A.1** and **31 COM 11 A.2**, a Circular Letter was sent to European States Parties in October 2007 as well as separate letters to States Parties concerned. 125 boundary clarifications were received of which 65% were adequate. They are contained in document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*.
3. Following the publication of the "*Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006*" (World Heritage Paper 20) in February 2007 the report was disseminated in both English and French in hardcopy and electronic version (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/153/>).
4. Numerous cooperation activities among European States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre addressed follow-up activities to the European Report and Action Plan and a number of sub-regional meetings were organized.
5. The meeting for *Eastern Europe* (Wroclaw, Poland, 14-15 September 2007) organized by the Polish authorities established priority actions for the Eastern European sub-region. It also reviewed with hands-on exercises the establishment of statements of significance/outstanding universal value, the question of boundary modifications and clarifications, shared best practice examples as well as reflections on the complex harmonization of the Tentative Lists at the bi-national or sub-regional level. The report and recommendations of this meeting are available on-line at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/417/>.
6. During 2007, extrabudgetary funding from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) was provided for the following capacity building workshops concerning natural heritage and cultural landscapes in *Central and Eastern Europe*: Workshop on "Harmonisation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe (9-13 May 2007) and a Training Workshop on "Tourism Planning and Management for natural World Heritage sites in Europe" (31 October to 4 November 2007). Both workshops were held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Vilm, Germany. The documentation is available online at: www.bfn.de/0610_vortraege+M52087573ab0.html
7. For natural heritage and cultural landscapes in *South-Eastern Europe*, the extrabudgetary project to enhance capacity building in site management for this post-conflict region was completed in April 2008 with the Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, Istituto Superiore sui Sistemi Territoriali per l'innovazione (SiTI) and the German Environmental Foundation (DBU). In cooperation with these partner organizations and additional funding sources, three training workshops were offered to natural heritage experts from *Central and South-Eastern Europe* during the second half of 2007, as well as two coordination meetings held to discuss future programming, with the participation of IUCN, the UNESCO-BRESCE Office in Venice, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). Building upon the results of the sub-regional analysis of the Periodic Reports, all training workshops focussed on reinforcing the regional strengths and helping to overcome the weaknesses, among others the loss of institutional memory and documentation, the lack of inventories and inadequate representation of heritage of the sub-region on the World Heritage List, and the difficulties

in setting up regional development strategies in the region based on the different needs of each country. Detailed information can be obtained at www.bfsd.org.

8. A follow-up meeting for the *Mediterranean and South-Eastern European* sub-regions is organized from 18 to 19 April 2008 in Corfu, Greece, and hosted by the Greek authorities as a follow-up to the first meetings for the South-Eastern European sub-region (Thessalonica, Greece, 10-11 December 2006) and for Mediterranean Europe (Madrid, Spain, 19-20 February 2007). The meeting will focus on Tentative Lists harmonization, statements of Outstanding Universal Value, management plans and transnational World Heritage nominations, particularly for cultural heritage. The Portuguese authorities have offered to organize the next meeting for focal points of *Mediterranean Europe* in spring of 2009.
9. Following the 1st Iberian Meeting of Site Managers (Lisbon, Portugal, 14-15 May 2004), the 2nd Iberian Meeting was organized by the Spanish authorities in Plasencia, 2-4 April 2008. The meeting focussed on the management of different types of Spanish and Portuguese World Heritage properties and on current nomination dossiers, as well as on the cooperation initiatives with Latin American States Parties. The Portuguese authorities have offered to organize a 3rd Iberian Meeting in 2010.
10. As a follow-up to the meeting for *Nordic and Baltic Europe* (Helsinki, Finland, 3-4 May 2007), Periodic Reporting follow-up is covered by the Nordic cooperation meetings organized with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.
11. In addition, Periodic Reporting was discussed at a number of national World Heritage meetings as a follow-up to Decisions **30 COM 11A.1** and **31 COM 11A.1**.
12. From all meetings and capacity building workshops, it became evident that more time is needed for the preparation of the statements of significance/outstanding universal value in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. Further guidance for States Parties is required in spite of the preparatory work with the datasheets providing all necessary elements through the Periodic Reporting process. The preparation or revision of management plans for World Heritage properties is another area of intense work prior to the next cycle of reporting. On the other hand, progress has been made with revisions of Tentative Lists and cooperation among States Parties in identifying potential (transnational) sites.

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 32 COM 11C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/11C,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 11A.1**, **30 COM 11A.2**, **31 COM 11A.1** and **31 COM 11A.2** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the results of the subregional meetings on the follow-up to Periodic Reporting for Central, Eastern Europe, South Eastern and Mediterranean Europe and

further notes that a number of training initiatives were financed through extrabudgetary sources;

- 4. Encourages the European States Parties to continue to submit any changes to names, criteria, boundaries and draft statements of significance/outstanding universal value as soon as possible;*
- 5. Recommends that States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre continue their collaboration in addressing any outstanding issues in particular with focused follow-up meetings and training exercises;*
- 6. Thanks the Greek authorities for having hosted the Mediterranean and South-Eastern European Meeting in Corfu, Greece, 18-19 April 2008, and the Spanish authorities for having organized the Iberian Meeting in Plasencia, Spain, 2-4 April 2008, and welcomes the offer of the Portuguese authorities to host a meeting for Mediterranean Europe in spring 2009;*
- 7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the European Periodic Report and on the preparations for the next cycle for Europe and North America for examination at its 34th session in 2010.*