



***Council of Ministers of Culture
of South East Europe***

24 April 2010 Cetinje, Montenegro

CETINJE DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Culture of South East Europe and other officials,

Gathered today, on 24 April 2010, in the Old Royal Capital of Montenegro, Cetinje, in the framework of Montenegrin Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe,

Relying on the principles determined in the Charter of the Council of Ministers of South East Europe signed on 31 March 2005 in Copenhagen, Denmark,

Recalling continuity of the Ministerial Meetings held in Tirana and Varna (2006), Sofia (2007), Zagreb (2008) and Athens (2009), as well as the Conclusions from the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe in Ljubljana (2009),

Considering the importance of the declarations adopted by the Heads of State of the South East Europe in regional forums on dialogue between civilizations: Dialogue Between Civilizations (Ohrid, 2003), Inter-religious and Inter-ethnic Dialogue (Tirana, 2004), Cultural Corridors in South East Europe (Varna 2005), Communication of Heritage (Opatija 2006), Cultural Diversity as a Bridge Between Cultural Heritage and Culture of the Future (Bucharest and Sibiu, 2007), Intercultural Encounters on Maritime, River and Lake Routes of South East Europe (Athens, 2008), Management of Heritage Diversity and its Promotion for Tourism (Cetinje, 2009),

Having in mind the significance of regional cultural cooperation and exchange of positive experiences in all the aspects of culture, and confirming our commitment to this aim, also with regard to mutual understanding and respect of the cultural diversity as a necessary basis for prosperity and regional development,

Responsible for creation of regional cultural policy with a view to the protection of shared cultural values and creation of the positive regional image, we commit ourselves to undertake the following:

- **Revision** of the Action Plan, in accordance with the objective possibilities and regional priorities, therefore confirming the responsibility of creation of the regional cultural policy and implementation of previously assumed obligations;
- **Creation** of regional cultural strategy, as a key document with which the current state in all aspects of culture, priorities and developmental guidelines shall be defined;
- **Establishment** of expert networks, as well as promotion of the mobility of the cultural professionals with an aim of necessary exchange of knowledge and experiences;
- **Reinforcement** of the integrated programmes in the field of cultural heritage and artistic creativity, synergy of which shall contribute to enhancement of the promotion of cultural expressions, on a national and regional level;
- **Continued support** to the integrated programmes of cultural heritage and cultural tourism, based on principles of sustainable development, implementation of which shall particularly influence the development of local communities;
- **Mutual support** in the process of harmonization of cultural policies with international standards and priorities, and paying particular attention to the selection of annual priority in the field of cultural heritage, in accordance with Conclusions from Ljubljana;
- **General support** to the Theatre Network NETA (New European Theatre Action) which is composed of theatres and festivals from all the countries of the region of South East Europe, and we shall also include in this process the line institutions of the countries outside of this region which theatres are members of the association (Italy, Hungary, Russia and Slovakia), in order to ensure, through our support, the conditions for realizations of the important regional theatre projects;

Having in mind the success of programmes and projects of international organizations, which proved to be true partners and long term support in preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of artistic creativity in South East Europe, we especially emphasize the contribution: **Council of Europe**, as an international organization which has greatly contributed to our region in the field of the protection of cultural heritage, especially through Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage of South East Europe; **UNESCO**, as an organization of international character distinguished by its integrity in the field of preservation of cultural heritage and which has further helped the countries of South East Europe through the long term project 'Cultural heritage – a Bridge Towards a Shared Future', and **European Union** that, through its support programmes, especially Culture 2007 – 2013, and specific funds for cultural heritage preservation, pays particular attention to culture, which has proven to be of vital significance for the countries of the region.

United by the mission of encouragement of regional cooperation through supporting the national initiatives, we create conditions for strengthening of the specialized institutional framework for enhancement of cultural heritage and artistic creativity, therefore we shall:

- **Support** initiative of Montenegro, as a host country, to establish a Regional Centre in Cetinje, Old Royal Capital of Montenegro, which shall operate in the field of management in cultural heritage and represent an important regional cooperation link in this field, thereby confirming our dedication to management in cultural heritage, expressed through numerous documents adopted in the framework of all the regional initiatives,
- **Confirming** the Ljubljana ministerial declaration of November 2009 on the important results of the IRPP/SAAH, welcome the Ljubljana Process II for the continuation of the cultural rehabilitation after 2010 under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council according the terms of the Statement adopted today,
- **Remain** committed to strengthening of the support to the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage of South East Europe and giving priority to the implementation of Local Development Pilot Project,
- **United** by a desire to fully recognize all expressions of creativity through new forms of regional cooperation, support the idea of establishing Regional Centre for encouraging international linking and management in the field of culture between countries which will represent a centre of interweaving of different cultures, as well as a significant integrative factor between countries and it would contribute to the development of individual and collective awareness of common historical foundation of cultural liaisons and democratic values,
- **Following** the Conclusions from the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe held in Ljubljana (7th November 2009), confirm our cordial support to the interest expressed by the Republic of Slovenia in joining the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, aware of the importance and role that Republic of Slovenia has on the regional and European cultural scene,
- **According** to addresses and comments from the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Cultural Heritage – a Bridge towards a Shared Future” (Cetinje, 23 April 2010) we welcome the opportunity that arouse during Montenegrin Presidency as a first step towards possible joining of regional initiatives in South East Europe. Therefore, we encourage the countries to invest more efforts for the purpose of this common initiative of the Region and UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Commission and other relevant international organizations.

Finally, we welcome the Presidency of Romania, as a next chair country of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe.