

Resolution the reviving of monuments (66/20)

(Adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 29th March 1966)

The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to Recommendation 365 (1963) of the Consultative Assembly;

Having regard to their decision at the 134th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies to transmit to the Council for Cultural Co-operation the proposal contained therein for a European Conference on the development of ancient buildings and historical or artistic sites;

Being informed of the results of the Symposium organised on the above theme by the CCC at Vienna from 4th to 8th October 1965;

Having noted Recommendation 23 of the CCC on "Finding new uses, in their natural or aesthetic surroundings, for buildings which are of cultural interest, but no longer fulfil their original purpose";

Considering that monuments in this category are usually a reminder of a period of history and are a valuable element in our European cultural heritage as defined by the European Cultural Convention;

Considering the deplorable state of the majority of monuments in Europe, caused by lack of the necessary maintenance and of functions in keeping with their character;

Considering that monuments can be effectively protected only if the appropriate measures are included as an integral part of a general policy on regional planning which centralises and harmonises action to be taken throughout the country;

Considering that conservation is a collective responsibility and cannot be left entirely to the owner;

Considering nevertheless that it is in the best interests of Governments to avoid placing themselves in a position where they are to accept full responsibility for all monuments and that, consequently, it is necessary:

(a) to take essential action to provide owners with the means to continue to maintain their monuments;

(b) if the monuments are no longer occupied by their owners, to make an effective contribution to finding a suitable new function for the buildings;

Considering that inefficient or undeserving owners abuse their rights by refusing either to maintain or to sell property of historical or archaeological value;

Considering that protection of this heritage is of essential economic importance to the nation,

Urges member Governments:

1. to draw up or complete the catalogue of monuments which should be preserved, together with their surroundings and their contents, according to the criteria adopted at Symposium A of the Council for Cultural Co-operation;

2. to establish, where necessary, new legislation or regulations adapted to the needs of monument and site protection:

(a) fiscal (very considerable tax relief for owners of such monuments, or for individuals or bodies corporate whose donations or grants assist public authorities or associations in protecting their architectural and cultural heritage);

(b) financial (in the form of loans and other facilities for owners, including grants);

(c) administrative (by aiding owners who are unable, for financial reasons, to maintain their monument to obtain additional voluntary public or private help);

3. to encourage the development of tourist facilities by:

(a) including the monuments in organised tours aided by effective publicity and payment of an entrance fee;

(b) organising cultural events;

4. to facilitate the acquisition and development of such monuments by organisations prepared to use them as registered offices or reception centres, for example;

5. to facilitate the creation of public or private organisations for the purpose of aiding owners;

6. to keep owners better informed about the many uses to which such monuments can be put as described in the report of Symposium B of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (as tourist or recreational centres, secondary residences, examples of art and history);

7. to give government authorities, and in particular local authorities, the possibility, if need be, of taking over from inadequate owners;

8. to study legislative measures which, in certain circumstances, would compel owners either to maintain their monuments in good repair or to part with their property;

9. to provide national organisations for the protection of historical monuments with the staff and funds necessary to carry out work of prime importance.