

Political Committee

The question of revisionism concerning historical monuments

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1. Why should they be preserved?

There is no doubt that innovation in architecture is extremely important but the popular opinion has been that it is more simple, beneficial and cheaper to build new buildings instead of preserving the old ones. The main goal of our committee is to tackle this topic and remind of the often forgotten benefits of keeping our heritage intact.

Historical monuments' contribution:

Culturally, the architectural monuments stand testimony to our evolution and cultivate the pride our past and heritage, making each member state unique in the world. Historical buildings are the material form of the expression of the ideals, aspirations and beliefs of civilizations throughout the world and time.

Economically, monuments improve economic prosperity, since they attract a great deal of tourists, annually, who can generate workplaces (and extra income) for both locals and international experts. In addition, restoration works require excessive skills and knowledge than simple building and, thus, result in higher salaries and moreover economy's boost.

Ecologically, despite that building new green buildings that save energy is important, maintaining historical monuments is environmentally friendly as well since reservation and

restoration is the ultimate form of recycling. It helps reduce construction waste and save the energy that is usually spent on manufacturing and transporting building materials and tools.

2. Important information

- The growing interest in the conservation of sites and buildings of artistic importance was demonstrated by the adoption on 19 November 1968, at the fifteenth session of the Unesco General Conference, of an international Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property endangered by Public and Private Works.
- I would like to emphasize Resolution 2347, adopted on 24 March 2017 by the United Nations' General Assembly, which condemns unlawful destruction and pillaging of cultural heritage such as religious sites and artifacts.
- You should also bear in mind the fact that wanton vandalism is part of a cycle of theft and profit which finances the activities of terrorists. They are fully aware that by destroying cultural artifacts, buildings and monuments, they can divide people, erase their common values, and create greater fragility and vulnerability.

- Many factors contribute towards decisions leading to the restoration of a site or a building and its ultimate preservation as a ‘monument’. These decisions, and the legal and administrative actions which follow (e.g. scheduling or classification), have little effect until the concept has seeped through to the general public. Scholarship, and its eventual influence on administrative programmes and on the people, are thus allimportant in the preservation of our monuments. The act of restoring is a practical expression of judgement and is intimately bound up with the cognitive process it initiates and which in turn directly conditions it. This process, however, like any attempt to penetrate a work of art, is slow and laborious.
- Even today, unfortunately, it cannot be said that restorers, in practice, always observe the strict principles that critical theory demands. The reasons why restoration is so often empirical remain: lack of proper training, professional jealousy, oversimplification, and the general view that, by a kind of aesthetic surgery, a monument can easily be touched up in fresh colours.

3. Possible solutions

Initially, once again, dear delegates you should focus on the educational part of the problem. State and municipal historic preservation officers, local planning agency staff, and preservation commission members should be informed about the importance of maintaining historical monuments.

Secondly, the Member States should implement effective national measures, both at legislative and operational level, to prevent the

trafficking of cultural goods and related crimes, including the identification of activities that can benefit organized criminal or terrorist groups.

Additionally, UNESCO, INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO and other relevant organizations will have to continue helping Member States evaluate the damage and protect their priceless cultural heritage in order to serve their role as symbols of unity and peace.

4. Bibliography

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