

November 10-14, 2008, Ljubljana, Slovenia



CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH MEETS PRACTICE  
8th European Commission Conference on Sustaining Europe's Cultural Heritage

## LJUBLJANA DECLARATION

### ON CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH IN A STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP WITH END-USERS

Delegates at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Commission sponsored Conference “Cultural Heritage Research Meets Practice”, organised by the National and University Library and the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, recognise that:

- Cultural heritage is a non-renewable resource to be managed sustainably on behalf of present and future generations,
- Cultural heritage is key to the economic competitiveness of Europe with respect to tourism (€340 billion annual turnover and 8 million workers),
- The industrial market for European companies involved in conservation and restoration of cultural heritage represents €5 billion per year and is on the increase,

and declare the following objectives:

- **Promote strategies, instruments, funding mechanisms and exploitation measures to extend the engagement of enterprises and end-users to ensure that research results are adopted in practice,**
- **Firmly embed heritage research within EU RTD Framework Programmes and other funding schemes, and its utilisation to inform EU directives related to the environment and society,**
- **Integrate safeguarding of cultural heritage as a key challenge in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy which is currently under revision,**

to underpin the following goals:

- **Integration of multi- and inter-disciplinary research into practice.** Involvement of all key research, education and heritage stakeholders including industry and end-users should be promoted in projects supported by European programmes. This will contribute to the European Research Area and to the competitiveness of the EU knowledge-based economy in line with the Lisbon Strategy .
- **Funding.** The inconsistent level of funding for heritage research and lacklustre support needs to be urgently addressed as it undermines the potential for an unassailable critical mass of European researchers. There is a continuing need for research and innovation for protection of all forms of tangible cultural heritage in line with the Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.
- **Preparedness for future change.** Changing natural and social environments are increasing pressure on the cultural environment of communities. This matter needs to be urgently addressed in order to understand, evaluate and mitigate the effects of demographic change, the increase in tourist numbers and damage as a consequence of more frequent natural disasters.
- **Holistic management of heritage.** A holistic understanding of changes in materials, values and the environment must be promoted, also through education, in order to monitor and manage our cultural heritage sustainably. This is especially important in times of poorer economic outlook and depletion of natural resources. Environmental targets for emissions reduction, use of renewable forms of energy and improving energy efficiency will enable our sector to play its part in meeting the 20/20/20 goal of Europe's climate change policy.