

# Return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State

1995/0254(COD) - 17/02/1997 - Final act

**OBJECTIVE:** to amend Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State in order to deal with the problem of water-colour, gouache and pastel pictures which are regarded as being either paintings or drawings. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Directive 96/100/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Annex to Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State. **SUBSTANCE:** For the purposes of Directive 93/7/EEC water-colour, gouache and pastel pictures are regarded as being either paintings or drawings, corresponding to categories 3 and 4 respectively of this Directive. Different financial thresholds apply for each of these categories which causes serious differences of treatment of the pictures depending on the Member States in which they are situated and the current national artistic traditions (which place differing values on different types of work). To deal with this problem this amendment to the directive decides specifically in which category this type of picture falls by creating a new distinct category with a threshold set at ECU 30 000. This threshold ensures that works of major significance unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State can be returned. **DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION:** 17/08/1997