


# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2036(INI)
Procedure completed	
Convention on the protection of world cultural and natural heritage: application in the Union's countries	
Subject	
3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity	
4.45.06 Heritage and culture protection, movement of works of art	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CULT</b> Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		29/02/2000
		PPE-DE <a href="#">DE VEYRAC</a> <a href="#">Christine</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		19/06/2000
		PPE-DE <a href="#">GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES</a> <a href="#">Cristina</a>	

Key events			
26/11/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">B5-0362/1999</a>	
14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
05/12/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0382/2000</a>	
15/01/2001	Debate in Parliament		
16/01/2001	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0005/2001</a>	Summary
16/01/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2036(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/12600

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">B5-0362/1999</a>	26/11/1999	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0382/2000</a>	05/12/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0005/2001</a> <a href="#">OJ C 262 18.09.2001, p. 0023-0048</a>	16/01/2001	EP	Summary

## Convention on the protection of world cultural and natural heritage: application in the Union's countries

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Christine DE VEYRAC (EPP-ED, F) on the application of the Convention on the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage. The report began by pointing out that the EU was over-represented on the list of World Heritage Sites (accounting for 30%) and that historic towns and religious buildings were over-represented compared with other categories. While this could be explained partly by the major worldwide influence Europe had had on the development of civilisation, and by its effective heritage-conservation work, it was important to remember that the less developed countries were unintentionally but automatically penalised by the constraints of preparing application files for the World Heritage List. The Member States were accordingly urged to encourage non-European countries to complete the list of their natural and cultural heritage assets and to provide appropriate practical assistance to those countries under UNESCO. The Commission was urged to assist, under existing programmes, developing countries which were facing problems with the recognition, description and conservation of cultural sites. The committee also called on the Member States to use all means available to stamp out the growing illegal trade in archaeological finds plundered from non-European countries. The report put forward the idea of a European heritage classification system which would make it possible to identify cultural, linguistic and natural heritage sites which were of more than mere national interest without aspiring to world status and to accord these a recognisable European label. It called for the natural and architectural urban and rural heritage to be regarded as an indivisible whole, requiring joint protective measures. It also drew attention to Article 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, which stipulated that the impact assessment required for all public and private projects should include an assessment of the visual impact and impact on the landscape. The cultural heritage should therefore be afforded the same respect as other non-renewable resources. The committee approved of the fact that 34% of the total budget for the "Culture 2000" programme had been allocated to the heritage in the broadest sense, including intellectual and non-intellectual heritage, museums, photographic and audiovisual archives and the underwater heritage. Lastly, the report wanted the profession of 'heritage restorer' to be organised at various training levels with the aim of ensuring the quality of heritage restoration work. Training programmes should be set up devoting particular attention to arts and crafts, and practical measures should be taken to preserve and transmit rare professional skills in this field to future generations. Conservation of the cultural heritage was a sector which could provide a sound basis for the promotion of new jobs in the EU. ?

## Convention on the protection of world cultural and natural heritage: application in the Union's countries

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The European Parliament has adopted the report by Mrs Christine de VEYRAC (EPP/ED, F) on world heritage sites. (Please refer to the decision of the committee responsible). It should also be noted that the Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to study, in cooperation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, the viability of an international legal and fiscal framework, which would facilitate forms of sponsorship relating to the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage. A task force to be set up for this purpose should include MEPs. ?