

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2006/2050(INI)	Procedure completed
European cultural and architectural heritage at local level: promotion of an unrecognised heritage		
Subject 4.45.06 Heritage and culture protection, movement of works of art		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	PSE SIFUNAKIS Nikolaos	03/10/2005
European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	FIGEL' Ján	

Key events			
16/03/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/07/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
20/07/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0260/2006	
07/09/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/09/2006	Debate in Parliament		
07/09/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0355/2006	Summary
07/09/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2050(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE371.994	05/05/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE374.401	22/06/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A6-0260/2006	20/07/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T6-0355/2006	07/09/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2006)4772	19/10/2006	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2006)4861	15/11/2006	EC	

European cultural and architectural heritage at local level: promotion of an unrecognised heritage

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by its chairman, Nikolaos SIFUNAKIS (PES, GR), on the protection of the European natural, architectural and cultural heritage in rural and island regions. The report stressed that the cultural heritage, which encompasses both tangible and intangible elements, is of particular importance in rural areas which "are feeling the effects of abandonment, dwindling populations and economic stagnation", and pointed out that conservation of the cultural heritage could provide a foundation for further social and economic development.

The committee emphasised that action taken in rural and island areas must ensure a sustainable balance between population and environment, an integrated approach to traditionally agricultural areas and participation by the local populace in the drafting and implementation of policies. It proposed a number of specific measures to develop the cultural heritage sector, such as:

- a systematic survey of the rural heritage and the creation of a legislative framework to guarantee its protection;
- funding for the restoration of local monuments and the continuation of traditional farming methods;
- comprehensive restoration of traditional habitats and traditional forms of architecture;
- conservation of local know-how and traditional professions;
- training for professionals involved in the use and management of space, architecture, building restoration and repair and related activities in how to conserve the specific nature of the heritage while meeting present-day needs;
- training for craftsmen and suppliers of traditional materials.

Member States were also urged, in cooperation with the Commission, to promote the protection and conservation of their cultural heritage through the Structural Funds and the existing LEADER +, URBAN II and INTERREG III initiatives, and to support the development of sustainable alternative tourism in small traditional communities with the assistance of various other Community financial instruments. MEPs added that the Commission and the Member States should not provide Community funding for projects which would "demonstrably result in destruction of valuable parts of our cultural heritage".

Lastly, the report called for greater cooperation with the Council of Europe in this field and proposed introducing a 'European Cultural Heritage Year' with the aim of making the European public more aware of the importance of promoting Europe's cultural heritage.

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Nikolaos SIFUNAKIS (PES, GR), on the protection of the European natural, architectural and cultural heritage in rural and island regions. (Please see the summary of 13/07/2006.)