

## **Appendix to the Charter of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe**

**We, Ministers of Culture of South East Europe,**

**Aware** of the importance of the regional co-operation and of the necessity for the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe to have a coherent vision about its mission, as well as to be an efficient tool for accomplishing projects of European and regional co-operation,

**Taking into account** the need to enhance the role of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe and to transform it into a forum for debate and decision-making, updated with European and regional cultural priorities,

**Considering** the importance of a stronger positioning of culture and national heritage in all other public policies at national, regional and European levels, as factors that drive sustainable development, higher employment, good social status and improved quality of life,

**Given** the potential of cultural and creative industries to generate economic growth and development both at national and European level,

**Have agreed on the need to adopt an Appendix to the Charter** signed in Copenhagen on March 31, 2005, in order to provide the Council of Ministers with the means to streamline and focus its actions so as to create a strong regional body, one that is modern and adapted to the needs of the countries that compose it, thus enabling them to speak with one voice before international actors.

As such, the objectives of the Charter signed in 2005 are to be enriched as follows:

The Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe aims at disseminating the information about regional priorities in terms of culture and heritage within the relevant European forums, especially in the meetings and working groups of the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO. *Also*, it aims at supporting concrete programmes and projects that directly or indirectly concern South East Europe and that are compatible with other programmes (international and national), in order to strengthen institutional co-operation between the Council members.

The Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe aims at enhancing the exchange of ideas, projects and partnerships aimed at raising awareness and building capacity in cultural landscape and heritage. It also aims at enhancing projects and partnerships in cultural and creative industries, with special regard to small and medium enterprises, in order to define these industries as important sources of economic growth, competitiveness, employment, sustainable development and innovation.

The Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe aims at enlarging cooperation with neighboring countries and regions, especially with the countries at the Black Sea and in South Caucasus and, in this respect, to support before the European structures the programmes included in the Eastern Partnership.

The Council sets the objective for its members to consider and adopt a common regional strategy that will be updated regularly based upon the Council members' proposals, the programmatic elements of which strategy will be found in the Council website. This strategy will provide opportunities for joint activities that will be analyzed and evaluated by the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe.

The Council welcomes the idea of an Action Plan revised annually and the principle that the future Council projects and actions included therein shall be adopted periodically in a form that comprises projects and realistic actions, specific and representative for all members of the Council. Each Minister, in his/her capacity of Council member, appoints a high-rank person, civil servant or dignitary, mandated under his/her authority, as National Coordinator. Each Minister also designates an expert in issues of cultural heritage and an expert in cultural and contemporary arts issues, in order to have specialists with relevant expertise able to decide on participating in different projects in the fields mentioned above.

The experts appointed by the Ministers work to the annual progress report of the activities of the Council in the relevant fields and for that, they meet once a year. Each group separately, a group of experts for heritage and a group of experts for culture and contemporary arts, prepare a progress report and propose activities for the revised Action Plan in order to write an evaluation report which will be presented during the Annual ministerial conference.

**Adopted in Bucharest on April 15, 2011**