



## BUCHAREST DECLARATION

**We, the Ministers of Culture of South East Europe and other officials,**

**Gathered** today, on April 15, 2011 in Bucharest, within the framework of the Romanian Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe,

**Relying** on the principles laid out in the Charter of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe signed on March 31, 2005 in Copenhagen, Denmark,

**Drawing upon** the experience of the Ministerial Meetings held in Tirana and Varna (2006), Sofia (2007), Zagreb (2008), Athens (2009), Podgorica and Cetinje (2009, 2010), as well as the Conclusions from the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe in Ljubljana (2009) and Skopje (2010),

**Considering** the importance of the previous declarations and relevant documents of the CoMoCoSEE from Cetinje (2010), Athens (2009), Zagreb (2006), Varna (2006), Tirana (2006),

**Strongly believing** in the necessity to strengthen and transform regional co-operation so as to have in the CoMoCoSEE a strong, unique body that would express itself in a single voice,

**Responsible** for creating a modern regional policy that is relevant for all its Member States and adjusted to their present needs and common interests,

**Have agreed** to adopt, on the occasion of the Bucharest Plenary Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Culture of South East Europe, a document that constitutes an Appendix to the CoMoCoSEE Charter signed in Copenhagen on March 31, 2005. The Appendix completes and enriches the framework provided by the Charter, following the agreement expressed by all the Ministers of the CoMoCoSEE.

The Ministers agree upon the integral validity of the two documents, starting April 15, 2011, date of the signing of the Appendix, and upon the fact that the two documents together constitute the fundamental documents for the organization and structuring of the future regional policy of the CoMoCoSEE, as well as for all joint decisions of the Ministers and, respectively, of the official representatives appointed by the Ministers.

We endorse the success of, and remain committed to strengthening our support for, the Council of Europe's Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage of South East Europe. In particular, we agree to give priority to the implementation of the Local Development Pilot Projects, which is one of the most promising integrated and holistic initiatives based on the sustainable use of cultural and natural resources for social and economic local and regional development.



We endorse more specifically the results of the joint efforts of the European Commission and the Council of Europe together with the Regional Cooperation Council to implement successfully the continuation of the Ljubljana Process on cultural rehabilitation in South East Europe. We support the objective to establish the heritage rehabilitation mechanism permanently by the end of the transitional period; We believe that the Task Force on Culture and Society recently created within the Regional Cooperation Council supported by an international secretariat funded by the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession will have a major role to play in fostering the ownership of the Ljubljana II process by all the countries of the region and are willing to intensify our involvement in that Task Force.

Acknowledging the profound meaning of the UNESCO programmes dedicated to cultural heritage and diversity in South East Europe, we encourage the CoMoCoSEE Member States to confirm their support for the UNESCO projects and co-operation initiatives dedicated to our region.

We encourage the Member States to realize the Programmes of the European Commission dedicated to South East Europe and we shall engage, to the extent of our possibilities, in concretely promoting regional cultural programmes within the Eastern Partnership.

**Finally, we congratulate the Republic of Serbia for taking over the CoMoCoSEE Chairmanship and we are convinced that our joint efforts to transform and modernize the Council shall be taken forward by the Serbian Chair.**

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