

PRESS RELEASE



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The fight against illicit traffic of cultural property: an important aspect of safeguarding Mediterranean cultural heritage

A regional workshop on **Preventing and fighting illicit traffic of cultural property** is organised on **9-11 November 2009 in Beirut** within **Euromed Heritage 4**, a programme funded by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument. It contributes to the improvement of the regional legislation for Mediterranean cultural heritage and its safeguard

This workshop is organised by Euromed Heritage 4 in collaboration with the Beirut Office of UNESCO. It gathers officials from authorities from Mediterranean partner countries of the European Union, representatives from international organisations such as UNESCO, ICOM, INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, World Customs Organization (WCO), and professionals in the field of international legislation and law applying to cultural heritage, in order to review the problem of trafficking, and debate over best practices and procedures as well as cooperation.

The workshop **will compare the existing legislations and specialised services for cultural heritage in the partner countries with the norms set by major international conventions** (Hague 1954, UNESCO 1970, UNIDROIT 1995) as well as the codes of ethics for the management of collections, whether private or museum collections, and for the trade in cultural properties (ICOM, UNESCO).

Specific questions will be examined, such as how the international norms have been implemented in the national legislations, how the UNESCO data base of cultural heritage legislation is being updated and consulted, how the mode of cooperation with the services of INTERPOL and the WCO could be improved. Inventories, and in particular the use of the norm "Object ID", will also be discussed.

The event is organised under the patronage of the Lebanese Directorate of Antiquities and will be inaugurated by **His Excellency Tammam Salam, Lebanese Minister of Culture, and Mr Patrick Laurent, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Lebanon.**

For more information

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"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".