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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Outcome of the Paris ministerial meeting on cultural heritage (3 May 2019)
– *Information from the Presidency*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above subject, which has been placed under 'Any other business' on the agenda for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 22 and 23 May 2019.

Outcome of the Paris ministerial meeting on cultural heritage

(Paris, 3 May 2019)

The Presidency would like to inform delegations of the outcome of the meeting of the culture and European affairs ministers that took place in Paris on 3 May 2019, following the fire at Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral, which resulted in a great loss for all Europeans.

As a follow-up to the discussions started at the informal meeting of the culture ministers in Bucharest, taking place a day after the tragedy that affected this important European landmark, a second meeting, co-chaired by France and the Romanian Presidency, identified concrete and immediate solutions to safeguard European heritage in danger.

In the declaration they endorsed in Paris, ministers expressed their commitment to create a European network of expertise, aimed at providing advice and support upon request when a Member State is in need. This network would be activated in crisis situations, allowing the sharing of best practices and making expertise easier to access. At the same time, the declaration facilitates the involvement of young Europeans in ongoing heritage documentation, conservation and restoration projects, by fully exploiting the existing European instruments, especially the European Solidarity Corps, the Erasmus+ programme and their successors.

The ministers highlighted the need to provide appropriate funding for culture at EU level, taking into account its importance for European citizens. They also noted the great diversity of existing resources to finance the safeguarding of heritage, including national, regional and local public financing, private generosity, joint projects with leading institutions for the financing of heritage restoration, and the use of relevant EU programmes and funds, such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Creative Europe and Horizon 2020, as well as the finance and expertise of the European Investment Bank.

The ministers called for heritage conservation to be mainstreamed in relevant EU policies, bearing in mind the specificity of the cultural sector. They invited stakeholders to step up dialogue, including at regional and national levels, in order to foster greater collaboration.