EU's response to illicit trade in cultural goods

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1. EU competence

Supporting in the field of culture

Shared in the field of internal market
Directive 2014/60 of 15 May 2014 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State

Exclusive in the field of customs and trade
Council Regulation 116/2009 of 18 December 2009 on the export of cultural goods

No legislation on control of imports apart from regulations adopted to prevent illicit imports of cultural goods from Iraq (No 1210/2003) and Syria (No 1332/2013)
2. Some projects

- **Psyche** - Protection System for Cultural Heritage – project led by the Carabinieri and Interpol to increase the contents and improve the queries at the Stolen Works of Art database

- **Capacity building** activities organised for enforcement authorities in Western Balkans (2011)

- A pan-African workshop on protection of cultural goods against plunder, theft and illicit trafficking in Morocco - in the framework of Joint Africa-EU strategic partnership (2014)
2. Some projects (2)

- 2012-2013
  **Restoration** of cultural heritage in **Timbuktu**
  in cooperation with **UNESCO**

- 2014-2017
  Emergency Safeguarding of the **Syrian Cultural Heritage** implemented by **UNESCO**
  Objective: to contribute to restoring social cohesion, stability and sustainable development through the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage
3. Turning point

- 2015 - Resolutions of the European Parliament
  - Resolution on the destruction of cultural sites perpetrated by Da'esh called for international cooperation to implement international conventions and resolutions.
  - Resolution on the situation in Palmyra condemned the purposeful and systematic destruction of the site.

- EU Action Plan to strengthen the fight against terrorist financing (2 February 2016)

- Joint Communication ‘Towards an EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations’ - combating illicit trafficking as one of the fields for international cooperation on culture (8 June 2016)
4. Global response

4 components of the EU action

A. Completing the legal framework
B. Tackling illicit trade within the EU
C. Measures at the borders
D. Measures in support of the countries directly affected
A. Completing the legal framework

- Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 – provisions to ensure that **exports** of cultural goods are subject to uniform controls at the Union's external borders.
- Directive 2014/60/EU on the **return** of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State.

- **NEW!** The **Regulation on the import of cultural goods will complete the EU legal framework.**
B. Tackling illicit trade within the EU

- Fighting the illicit trade through **enhanced cooperation**

EU CULTNET

**Internal Market Information System**
**Operation Pandora** (Nov-Oct 2016)

- Europol, law enforcement authorities from 18 countries, INTERPOL, UNESCO, and WCO joined forces to tackle the theft and illicit trafficking of cultural goods.

- Led by Cypriot and Spanish police

- Intense checks (persons, vehicles, ships)

- Results:
  - Over 3500 seizures (almost half of which were archaeological objects);
  - 75 arrests;
  - 92 new investigations.
B. Tackling illicit trade within the EU

• **Strengthening the capacity** of law enforcement agencies
  Trainings for the relevant professional groups, including police and custom officers.

• **Addressing the demand side**
  **Engaging the European art market** in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property
  - To reinforce due diligence conduct in the European art trade and sensitize relevant stakeholders to the different implications of illicit trafficking in cultural property.
  - **Activities:** training to selected stakeholders of the European art market and a series of sensitization materials to be distributed among art market stakeholders in the beneficiary countries.
B. Tackling illicit trade within the EU

• *Improving the evidence base and reinforcing the monitoring*

➢ **NEW!** "Study on improving knowledge about illicit trade in cultural goods in the EU, and the new technologies available to combat it"

Call for tender published on 14 June 2017, deadline for submissions 26 September 2017


➢ **Copernicus** satellite imagery
  o Maximising the use of and value of space data for end users
C. Measures at the borders

• Helping the EU customs

- **Existing cooperation** between customs authorities
  - Providing advice, sharing experience, exchange of good practice

- **Awareness raising** and **capacity building** activities

- Enhanced international and **cross-border cooperation**
D. Measures in support of the countries directly affected

- **Syria** Cultural Heritage Action Plan

- Assistance to **MENA countries** on fight against illicit trafficking

- **Capacity building** of enforcement authorities through **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX)**

- "Protecting Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies for Stability and Peace" - **Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen**
European Year of Cultural Heritage
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#EuropeForCulture
Thank you

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