

CYPRUS

NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1970 CONVENTION ON THE MEANS OF PROHIBITING AND PREVENTING THE ILLICIT IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

2011 – 2015

I. Information on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention of 1970 (with reference to its provisions)

1. Ratification of the Convention

a) Cyprus ratified the Convention in 1979.

2. Implementation in the national legal system and the organization of services

a) - The Antiquities Law (national legislation)

- Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002 (based on Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods)

- The Return of Cultural Goods Law, No 183 (1) of 2002 (based on Council Directive No 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State).

b) Cultural property is defined in Cyprus' 'Antiquities Law' (Article 2) as follows: "Antiquity means any object, whether movable or part of immovable property which is a work of architecture, sculpture, graphic art, painting, or generally any form of art which has through human effort been produced, sculptured, inscribed or painted or generally made in any manner whatsoever and from any material, one hundred or more years ago and which has been found, discovered or excavated in Cyprus or recovered from the sea within the territorial waters of Cyprus and includes any such object or part thereof which has at a later date been added, reconstructed, readjusted or replaced subsequently.

Provided that for works of ecclesiastical or folk art of great archaeological or artistic or historical value, the year 1940 AD shall be taken into account irrespective of the place of manufacture or origin."

c, d) The protection of cultural heritage and the prevention and combating of trafficking of cultural property is one of the basic elements of the mission of the **Department of Antiquities**. The Department's specialised staff (archaeologists, conservators, technicians etc) is dedicated to ensuring that the island's cultural heritage is protected and preserved in the best way. The staff of the Department of Antiquities conduct systematic and salvage excavations; conserve movable and

immovable cultural heritage found both on land and in the sea; ensure the safe storage of cultural goods; organize educational and other events that aim towards the promotion of cultural heritage and the enhancement of the public's important role in the preservation and protection of cultural property; ensure that monuments and sites are protected and promoted in the best way; prepare the necessary information/signage for visitors to museums, archaeological sites and monuments; keep digitised inventories of both moveable and immovable heritage; investigate online auctions/sale of cultural goods in order to identify missing objects; cooperate with the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise in order to combat the illegal import and export of cultural objects; publish scientific articles and books related to their research; organize scientific workshops/conferences on cultural heritage and its protection; prepare scientific reports on archaeological surveys and or excavations, which are used in order to schedule a building or site in the First or Second Schedule to the Antiquities Law or to enhance the protection of an area due to its cultural significance; participate in EU, UNESCO and other working groups and committees concerning the protection of cultural goods.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention and, in alignment with international prerequisites and recommendations by the General Secretariat of Interpol and other relevant organizations and on account of the serious problem that Cyprus faces concerning the destruction and looting of its cultural heritage in the areas which are not under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus, in August 1998 the Cyprus Police established an **Office of Cultural Heritage** which cooperates with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, EUROPOL, and other related bodies, all over the world.

Among the main goals of this Office are: the protection and preservation of world cultural heritage; the fight against illicit trafficking of works of art and cultural heritage and the return of stolen antiquities to their lawful owners. The Office of Cultural Heritage, which is situated at Police Headquarters (Criminal Investigation Department), advises and co-ordinates the activities of local criminal investigation departments and other police units which investigate cases involving cultural property. In order to accomplish the above goals, the Office of Cultural Heritage implements numerous significant measures at a local and international level. At the local level, the Office cooperates closely with other government authorities (Legal Services, Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Customs and Excise,) as well as the Church of Cyprus, monasteries, private collectors and others involved in this issue. Furthermore,

monuments and archaeological sites are regularly patrolled by the Cyprus Police enhancing their protection.

The **Department of Customs and Excise** of the Republic of Cyprus, due to its physical presence at all points of entry, exit and in transit through the Republic of Cyprus and E.U. borders in general, has a major role to play in enforcing the laws and regulations related to the exportation of cultural goods. The Department exercises its powers to control persons and goods and also to facilitate trade.

According to Customs Code Law No. 94(I) of 2004 any goods may be detained or seized as liable to forfeiture, amongst others and in the case of importation or exportation of goods contrary to any prohibition or restriction under the customs and other legislation. Other legislation means the Cyprus or Community legislation in force and for which the Department of Customs and Excise has authorization and or responsibility for the implementation of its provisions. Consequently, the Department of Customs and Excise has the responsibility to implement 'The Antiquities Law' at the time of importation or exportation of goods and detains or seizes any cultural property which is imported without an authorized license. Within the above framework, the Department of Antiquities cooperates very closely with the Department of Customs and Excise.

The Department of Customs and Excise of the Republic of Cyprus implements 'The Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002' for combating the illegal movement of cultural goods at the points of exit from and transit through the Republic of Cyprus. According to this national law, the export of cultural goods without an export license is prohibited. The export license shall be issued by a competent authority and must be presented, together with the export declaration (SAD), at the time when the customs export formalities are carried out, at the customs office that is competent to accept such a declaration. All consignments declared for exports regarding the cultural goods are subject to 100% documentary and physical checks. Random checks in relation to exports in general are also carried out within the preventive measures undertaken by the Department of Customs and Excise. Once a cultural object appears at a point of entry, exit or transit the Department of Customs and Excise notifies the Department of Antiquities, which in turn sends an Archaeological Officer to inspect the specific object/s in order to assess whether further investigations are required. Documents accompanying the object are inspected and further information on the provenance is requested (i.e. any information resulting from the conduct of due diligence is requested). As a result of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199, this procedure has been made more efficient and less time

consuming. Whereas in the past, the Director of the Department of Antiquities would make a formal request to the Director of the Department of Customs and Excise for cultural objects to be temporarily seized for investigation purposes, as a result of Resolution 2199 a special form has been designed for the temporary seizure of cultural goods for investigation purposes. The form is now filled-in directly by the Archaeological Officer who investigates the specific cultural good. The investigation procedure has thus been speeded up to a great extent. Following the temporary seizure of a cultural object the Department of Antiquities then notifies the Cyprus Police (Office of Cultural Heritage and Interpol-Nicosia), which then contacts and cooperates further with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, EUROPOL, and other related bodies, on an international level.

At European Community level the Department of Customs and Excise, has access to various European information systems and data bases, such as the Customs Information System (C.I.S). In addition, the Department has signed bilateral agreements on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters with other member states as well as third countries for the detection, prevention and combating of customs offences. These agreements include provisions for the protection of cultural heritage. At a national level the Department of Customs and Excise maintains excellent co-operation with the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Police on enforcement issues. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise. The MOU covers the issue of smuggling of antiquities and cultural goods. Officers from both Services participate in training seminars on Cultural Property Crime, organized by the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise and the Department of Antiquities.

e) The importance of co-operation between government departments on this subject cannot be overemphasized; the Department of Antiquities, the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise, the Legal Services, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as others are all implicated and, over the past few years, a more structured approach has been adopted on the issue of illicit trafficking. Monthly meetings between the representatives of the aforementioned departments take place in order to enhance this collaboration and to enable procedures to become more effective. One of the most important results of these meetings was the appointment (following a Ministerial Council decision) of a **National Committee for the Combating of Looting and the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Heritage**. The Committee, which will convene on a

monthly basis comprises of experts/representatives from the Department of Antiquities, the Legal Services, the Cyprus Police, the Department of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Church of Cyprus. It is anticipated that the establishment of this Committee will achieve a more efficient collaboration between the competent authorities and will have a direct impact on the efforts to curtail illicit trafficking.

3. Inventories and identification

a) - Inventories kept by the Department of Antiquities provide to a very large extent for the risks of misappropriation and theft. A specially designed inventory system is maintained by the Department of Antiquities, under the title CADiP (Cyprus Archaeological Digitization Programme). CADiP aims at increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the management of Movable Antiquities (including Museum inventories) and Ancient Monuments through detailed digitization (detailed description, photographic documentation, bibliographical references, exact provenance etc). The system also applies a Geographical Information System (GIS) integrating geographical data with archaeological findings.

- Inventories of private collections have been digitized and filed in such a way that the retrieval of information has been made faster and easier. In addition, the records of the objects that were part of one of the largest private collections of antiquities which remained in the occupied part of Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of 1974, have been digitized. Objects from this collection have been tracked down in the past in auction houses and antique shops abroad.

- A digital database of photographs and other information related to ancient monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus has been set up. The database includes detailed images taken prior to 1974, of icons, frescoes, mosaics, architectural members belonging to monuments and sites in occupied Cyprus. The above database has been handed over to the Cyprus Police and forwarded to INTERPOL. This database, which is continuously updated, will greatly enhance national and international efforts to monitor and protect cultural objects that are illicitly trafficked.

- The slide images of the objects that are part of state and private collections in the occupied areas have been digitized. Consequently, the process of checking

antiquities that are put up for auction against those that are currently missing has been made quicker and more efficient.

- A research program is currently in progress at the Cyprus Museum (Department of Antiquities) titled “Saving Prehistoric Antiquities under Threat”. The project, which is co-financed by the Swiss Government (Swiss Federal Office of Culture BAK) involves the conservation, recording, digitization and study of the archaeological material from 12 prehistoric sites in the occupied areas of Cyprus. The sites were excavated prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island in areas that are currently not under the effective control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus and the material is stored in the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia. The deliverables include, the digitization of the material, the organization of a periodical exhibition at the Cyprus Museum, the organization of an international conference on the subject of looting of cultural heritage and the publication of a volume of proceedings of the conference. The project was proposed and approved within the framework of the Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Switzerland on the imposition of restrictions on the illegal import of cultural goods, set into force on the 15/4/2014.

b) At the national level the degree of precision of the definition of “cultural property” covered by international conventions is very high since the definition of “antiquity” in the Antiquities Law (see I 2b above) covers all objects that date to 100 or more years and in some cases it covers objects dated up to 1940 AD.

c) The Object ID standard is found to be adequate.

d) The competent authorities involved in the protection of cultural heritage all recognize the importance of the ongoing training of their staff. In this respect training workshops and seminars are organized. The Department of Antiquities organizes specialized training seminars and workshops for members of the Cyprus Police and the Department of Customs and Excise, which focus on national and international legislation, ways of identifying cultural goods etc. The most recent such workshop took place at the Cyprus Museum in November 2014 within the framework of Europol’s Aureus Police Operation. In the workshop Archaeological Officers ran training programs for Police and Customs Officers on the aforementioned subjects. In addition the security staff (museum, archaeological sites and monuments guards) undergoes specialized training related to risks and dangers, including theft and fire. As far as libraries are concerned, the Library of the Department of Antiquities (one of the most specialized and extensive libraries on Cypriot history and archaeology on the

island, containing rare books, old newspapers and medieval manuscripts) has installed anti theft devices. Also, since June 2011 the digitization of the Library's content by specialized staff has began with the use of Digibook I2S Suprascan. The digitization commenced with newspapers dating from 1880–1930 and it will continue with publications/manuscripts dating from 1450–1800.

The old manuscripts and books are monitored and conservation is undertaken where necessary.

4. Archaeological excavations

a) Concerning the conducting of excavations in Cyprus, the Department of Antiquities is the competent authority for conducting excavations and surveys and for issuing excavation licenses to local and foreign archaeological missions as well as monitoring the excavations and surveys of these missions. As per the Antiquities Law (Part III: Excavations) “No person shall excavate or cause excavations to be made whether on his own land or elsewhere without a license in writing in that behalf first obtained from the Director in accordance with the provisions of this Law” [Article 14 (1)]. The license to excavate is granted only if the applicant satisfies specific requirements and qualifications [Article 15 (1)]. In addition, according to Article 16 (1) of the same law, every excavation license is deemed to be subject to a number of conditions that ensure the best protection of the sites and the moveable and immovable cultural goods. Finally, according to Article 18(2) of the same law “Any person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions... shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred euros or to imprisonment not exceeding three years or to both”.

As far as the conditions attached to an excavation license are concerned, these include the following:

1. The Excavation License is issued in the name of the applicant and under no circumstances is it permitted for it to be given either as a whole or parts of it to a third party.
- The Excavation License is issued for a specific period as stated in the Article 5 of the License to Excavate, with the possibility for it to be renewed if a new application is made and if the previous excavation's results satisfy the Director.
- The License is issued under the condition that prior to the beginning of the excavation the License holder shall ascertain that:

- a) the owner of the plot of land that will be excavated has given his/her consent for the excavations to take place.
 - b) all measures are taken for the safeguarding of the antiquities and their safe storage during the excavation period. The Director must be informed of the safety measures taken.
 - c) The 'Minimum Requirements for Safety and Health at the Workplace Regulations of 2002' are followed.
 - d) The Director or his representative is informed of the arrival of team members on the site and of the exact date of commencement of the excavations.
 - e) For every three (3) foreign archaeologists, one (1) Cypriot archaeologist is employed and for every five (5) foreign students, one (1) Cypriot student will take part in the excavation.
 - f) An adequate amount of money is available for the conservation and the fencing off of the excavated area, following the approval of the Director.
2. The Excavation License is issued under the condition that after every excavation season the License holder will ensure that:
- a) The Director or a representative is informed of the excavation's end date and that at least seven (7) working days in advance, the date of the handing over of the finds is given in writing.
 - b) An Inventory of the excavated finds including serial numbers, short descriptions of each object, information as to whether it is intact or fragmentary and measurements of each object, shall be prepared. Four (4) copies of the Inventory should be signed at the time of the handing over of the finds at the relevant District or Local Museums.
 - c) Within fifteen (15) days of the completion of the excavation season a short (1-2 page) Press Release is handed in which will include the results of the excavation season and at least one photograph copied on 2 CDs and two printed copies.
 - d) A more lengthy report is handed in with archaeological drawings and photographs, copied on (2) CDs and also printed out in two copies. This report shall be included in the Annual Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus (ARDAC) but also in other international scientific periodicals.
 - e) The Director is handed a hardcopy of the excavation plans and photographs as well as a detailed report concerning the season's results.

- f) After a period of two (2) years, the Director is given two printed copies of a scientific preliminary report and any other scientific publications related to the excavation results. These publications should be both on CD and printed, and will be published in the Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus (RDAC).
3. The Licence is issued under the condition that the holder ensures that with the completion of the excavation:
- a) A scientific report is published within two years of the completion of the excavations unless an extension is approved of by the Director. The report will incorporate the excavations' final results.
 - b) Within six (6) months after the completion of the excavation, all excavation diaries, maps, drawings and photographs will be handed to the Director. These will be copied on two (2) CDs and also two (2) printed copies shall be handed in.

With regards to the use of metal detecting it is worth noting that in 2012 the Antiquities Law was amended [(Article 10(4)] in order to provide for the enforcement of restrictions on the import and use of metal detectors or other detecting instruments used for the investigation of the underground strata or the sea or the sea floor. The use of such instruments now requires prior written permission from the Director of the Department of Antiquities. The terms and conditions for the possession and use of metal detectors or other detecting instruments, as well as the regulations on the granting of the relevant permits are outlined in the Regulations of the Antiquities Law.

b) Although legislation is explicit and firm, cases of illegal excavations continue to be reported in the government controlled areas of the Republic of Cyprus. Reports of looting are relatively frequent especially in specific areas that are rich in archaeological sites (especially tombs) but are more difficult to monitor (due to their secluded geographical position). The Cyprus Police, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, investigate reports of illegal activities relating to illegal excavations and possession of antiquities through on the spot inspections of reported areas. When antiquities are found undeclared in the possession of an individual, the authorities take the necessary legal action against the individuals and the objects are eventually handed over to the Department of Antiquities. In addition, cases of looting involving the use of metal detectors are still being reported. The Cyprus Police recently co-directed with the Spanish civil guard the 'Operation Aureus- Hieratica' which was a

Europol-coordinated, Interpol-assisted and UNESCO-supported investigation in 14 EU countries.

The problem of clandestine excavations in Cyprus dates back to the 19th century when foreign diplomats were involved in amateur excavations throughout the island that led to a huge part of the island's cultural heritage to be sold and exported to countries all over the world, in private collections or in museums. The island has unfortunately witnessed a more recent large-scale destruction and looting of its heritage with the 1974 Turkish military invasion of Cyprus and the subsequent occupation of approximately one third of the island. Although it is particularly difficult for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to present an exact and comprehensive account of the magnitude of the looting and pillage in the occupied areas, however, relevant cases that have come to light, together with recent scientific publications that record the current situation in the occupied areas, substantiate that the destruction and looting continue unabated.

Since 1974 museums in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus have been looted as so have many private collections of antiquities. Churches have been vandalized; over 20,000 icons, numerous sacred vessels, vestments and manuscripts have been stolen and scores of wall paintings and mosaics have been broken up and sold abroad, while others have been entirely destroyed. Some of the churches have been demolished and others vandalized. Research has shown that over 550 churches and religious sites along with their cemeteries have been pillaged, looted and intentionally destroyed. Important archaeological sites remain unprotected and easily accessible to looters or are still being illegally excavated by foreign missions (in violation of Article 9 of the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999). Illegal excavations led by foreign or non-recognized missions overall have over the past years taken place or continue to take place at archaeological sites such as Salamis (by Ankara University), the Karpasia peninsula, Galinoporni (German universities of Tübingen and Freiberg), Gastria-Alaas and Akanthou-Arkosyko.

5. Monitoring of the export and import of cultural property

a) As mentioned above, it is particularly difficult for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, to present an exact and comprehensive account of the scale of the illicit export or import of cultural property. However, the archaeologists of the Department

of Antiquities in the various districts are notified by the Police or sometimes the public when there is evidence for looting and measures are taken accordingly (either excavation, fencing, patrolling by the Police etc.). The efforts of the competent authorities are still curtailed, however, by the forcible division of the island.

b) See 5a.

c) Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002 (based on Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods)

- The Return of Cultural Goods Law, No 183 (1) of 2002 (based on Council Directive No 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State).

- The Antiquities Law (national legislation)

For cultural heritage originating from Cyprus as per the Antiquities Law, Article 27, no person is allowed to export an antiquity without a license to export. The export license of an antiquity may be granted only for purposes of temporary exhibition, long-term loan for exhibition purposes or for the study and scientific analysis of excavation material. Furthermore it is not allowed to grant a permit for the export of a private collection.

d) The rules do provide for the restitution of illicitly imported cultural property, as per the Return of Cultural Goods Law, No 183 (1) of 2002 (based on Council Directive No 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State) but also Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements and MoU's with third countries.

e) One of the main obstacles encountered in securing the restitution of illicitly exported cultural property originating from Cyprus is the identification that is required to be proven. For example, one of the most frequently identified categories of cultural property found to have been illicitly exported abroad are ecclesiastical cultural goods (icons, wall-paintings, vestments etc) that were originally part of churches situated in the now occupied areas of the island. In some cases these objects were not inventoried or adequately documented prior to the 1974 invasion and it is consequently often difficult to prove their provenance in court, especially considering that in some countries the legislation provides that the burden of proof on the provenance of an object is on the claimant country.

In addition, illicitly exported cultural goods such as pottery, metal objects, jewellery, coins etc. which form part of the contents of tombs or sometimes settlements may be found in illegal excavations. As a result their identification cannot be proven by providing photographs, inventory numbers etc. simply because they were unknown. In some courts, providing parallels for these objects is not accepted as adequate evidence for their provenance and their return is therefore extremely difficult.

f) Restitutions have involved legal proceedings, arbitration as well as international cooperation.

6. System for trade-in, acquisition, ownership and transfer of cultural property

a) As per the Antiquities Law (Article 26, revised in 2014, available in Greek) “No person shall deal in antiquities”.

b) see 6a.

c) All museums and similar institutions, when acquiring cultural property from another State notify the central authority (Department of Antiquities) on the due diligence they have performed concerning the specific cultural object. In addition the Department of Customs and Excise detains or seizes cultural objects that require further investigation regarding their provenance. In these cases the Department of Antiquities is notified and, if necessary, the Cyprus Police investigates the case (see 2 c, d).

d) As per the Antiquities Law (Article 3) “...all antiquities lying undiscovered at the date of the coming into operation of this Law in or upon any land shall be the property of the Government”. All antiquities therefore are Government property as are all Monuments of the First Schedule.

e) see 6d.

7. Bilateral Agreements

a) - **Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Peoples’ Republic of China.** Agreement on Preventing the Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit import and Export of Cultural Property between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the People’s Republic of China, May 8,

2008. The Agreement was set into force following the internal procedures of the two countries on May 21st 2014. As a result of this agreement a joint exhibition of antiquities will be organised in September 2015 in the Archaeological Museum of the Lemesos (Limassol) District.

As a result of the Agreement, representatives of the cultural authorities of the People's Republic of China visited their counterparts at the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, exchanged ideas and scientific knowledge, visited the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Painted churches of the Troodos region and as a result, made a joint proposal for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for wall-painting conservation.

- **Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of the Russian Federation.** Memorandum of Understanding *for the Prevention of the Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property* between the Ministry of Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, October 7, 2010.
- **Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Palestinian National Authority.** Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Palestinian National Authority on Cooperation in the Fields of Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Museums, March 15, 2011.
- **Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of Switzerland.** Bilateral agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Switzerland on the imposition of restrictions on the illegal import of cultural goods, Entry into force: February 15, 2014.

As a result of the Bilateral Agreement a research program titled “Saving Prehistoric Antiquities under Threat” began in 2014 and will be completed in 2017. It is co-financed by the two countries.

A second project, also co-financed by Switzerland and Cyprus was recently approved for the conservation of 173 repatriated icons, wall-mosaics and wall-paintings that were forcibly removed from churches in the occupied part of the island and were illegally exported. These objects were repatriated from Munich after a long legal battle and are in a very bad state of preservation as a result of their odyssey. Restoration is already under way.

- **Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of the State of Israel.** A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus and the Antiquities Authority of the State of Israel, was signed on November 3, 2011, promoting the co-operation of the two countries in the field of cultural heritage, including the exchange of experts, experiences and information concerning the measures for the rescue and conservation of the cultural heritage and the illicit trade of stolen antiquities and cultural goods in general.
- **Government of the Republic of Cyprus – Government of Georgia.** A Memorandum of understanding was signed on the 4th of February 2014 between the Department of Antiquities of the Republic of Cyprus and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, promoting the cooperation in the field of study, research and preservation of cultural heritage, through the sharing of experience in restoration-conservation, and scientific research on cultural monuments.

b) As far as the conditions set for restitution are concerned these may vary according to the country. Usually the domestic law of the Party in which the cultural property is located determines the requirements for action.

c) The Cyprus Police cooperates with other countries and has signed numerous Bilateral Agreements regarding Police Cooperation against, *inter alia*, the illicit trafficking of works of art and antiquities. The Department of Customs and Excise has also signed numerous bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters with other EU member states as well as with third countries, for the detection, prevention and combating of customs offences. These agreements include provisions for the protection of cultural heritage.

II. Code of ethics, awareness raising and education

Ethical standards

a) The UNESCO and ICOM codes of ethics are known to professionals concerned and in particular to museum directors and curators, most of which are also members of

ICOM. The Department of Antiquities is in close contact with all relevant establishments on Cyprus who report to the Department of any acquisitions of cultural objects. It also has a regulatory role as far as the application of the ethical code by private museums. As the competent authority for the management of moveable cultural objects (export, acquisition etc.), it plays a significant role in advising museums on these issues. In addition the Department of Antiquities participates in the Committee for the Accreditation of private museums. The criteria for accreditation are included in the relevant law for the management of private museums and, unless these are met, the applicants are not accredited.

Awareness raising and education

b) The “One Hundred Missing Objects” series and the ICOM Red Lists have been disseminated to Archaeological Officers and conservators.

c) - The Department of Antiquities continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Culture as far as educational programs held in state museums are concerned. At present, specially designed educational programs for children of primary school age are held at the Cyprus Museum in Lefkosia and at the Archaeological Museums of the Lemesos, Larnaka and Pafos Districts, as well as at archaeological monuments and sites such as Chirokoitia, Kolossi and Kouklia-Palaipafos-.

- Archaeological Officers of the Department of Antiquities frequently visit elementary schools in order to present to the children, in an animated way, the profession of the Archaeologist and to raise their awareness regarding the serious damage that can be caused by looting and illegal export. The scientific excavation methods are presented with the use of real excavation tools and authentic sherds and the children are invited to help the archaeologist perform a mock ‘excavation’ in order to understand the importance of stratigraphy, context, proper recording and provenance.
- The Department of Antiquities has a leading part in activities specified by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) such as *International Museums’ Day* (IMD) and the *International Day for Monuments and Sites* established by UNESCO. These events include special exhibitions of a thematic nature, lectures, artistic events and education programs for children. Such events attract a wide spectrum of the local population, especially young children and teenagers.

- As part of its efforts to protect the cultural heritage of Cyprus, and to apply the terms of the 1970 UNESCO Convention, the Department of Antiquities, in collaboration with the Church of Cyprus and the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), organised a 2-day Workshop in October 2011, entitled '*Protecting the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus: Joining Efforts in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage*'. The workshop proceedings were published in 2014.

III. Cooperation with other international and regional agencies

Police

- a) The INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) for Cyprus is part of the European Union and International Police Cooperation Directorate (EU – IPCD), a Headquarters Unit created in 2003 to handle all domestic police enquiries requiring international outreach including enquiries involving cultural property. INTERPOL Nicosia provides a 24-hour service. INTERPOL sends enquiries involving cultural objects of non-Cypriot origin to the General Secretariat of INTERPOL for investigation.
- b) The INTERPOL database on stolen objects is checked when needed and all necessary information is transmitted to INTERPOL.
- c) Members of the Cyprus Police, participate in international conferences and seminars, organized by the European Union, EUROPOL, INTERPOL and other organizations, which mainly focus on the fight against the illicit traffic of works of art and antiquities. Furthermore, Cyprus Police members have participated in training programs at the Cyprus Police Academy, organized in co-operation with the Special Unit of the Italian Carabinieri.
- d) The Antiquities Law has provisions for the punishment of fraud and theft related to cultural property.
- e) The Cyprus authorities maintain cooperation with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The recent establishment of a new National Committee for Repatriation and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking, approved by the Minsiterial Council, its members deriving from all the relevant bodies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, Legal Services, Ministry of Education and Culture, Customs and Excise, Police, the Church, presided by the Department of Antiquities) will contribute towards the more efficient co-ordination of actions for the above purpose.

Customs

f) Cyprus, as a full member state of the EU, is represented at the World Customs Organisation by the EU. The Department of Customs and Excise has close cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Police in preventing the illicit export of cultural property.

g) Customs officers participate in training seminars on Cultural Property Crime, organized by the Cyprus Police and the Department of Antiquities. They also participate in exchange visits (in the field of the protection of cultural goods) to other countries.

h) The export certificate used is based on the Council Regulation (EC) No 116/2009 on the export of cultural goods (national law: Export of Cultural Goods Law No. 182(I) of 2002)

European Union

Cyprus has harmonized its national legislation with regards to Directive 93/7/EEC, with The Return of Cultural Goods Law, No 183 (1) of 2002. The Department of Antiquities participates in the Expert Group "Return of Cultural Objects" related to implementing the administrative tasks provided for in the revised Directive 2014/60/EU. Cyprus has begun the necessary procedures for setting up the module "Return of cultural objects" in the Internal Market Information System (IMI) provided for in Directive 2014/60/EU.

IV. Emergency situations and heritage at risk

a) The Department of Antiquities, as one of the key authorities in Cyprus undertaking to implement the provisions of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols, has in recent years taken a number of steps in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders

for their effective implementation. As a member of the Committee and the Bureau of the Committee of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention from 2005 to 2011, in collaboration with the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus, Cyprus had a significant contribution in shaping the guidelines for the implementation of the Second Protocol, and was a leader in its application. Thus, in November 2010, Cyprus managed to be the first country together with Italy to have monuments placed under Enhanced Protection status in the Event of Armed Conflict according to the Second Protocol. This was the first time that Chapter 4 of the Second Protocol was activated and implemented. The monuments placed under Enhanced Protection are the three Cypriot UNESCO World Heritage Properties, for which all appropriate legal, administrative and military procedures, are in place or have to be created in order to be effectively protected and not become targets of military attacks and malicious damage during armed conflicts. Cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard General Staff was prominent in this success, and produced results in another area of obligations deriving from the Second Protocol. Each Member State is required to introduce to its military regulations and instructions, provisions that relate to the protection of cultural heritage and should proceed with the training of the army and the dissemination of the Convention and its Protocols. The Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense has produced a leaflet, which provides information on the Convention and basic guidelines on how to deal with cultural heritage when this is encountered, which has already been distributed to the armed forces, followed by lectures to be organised in military camps.

b) As far as cultural property from Iraq and Syria is concerned, and specifically the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2199, the Republic of Cyprus' competent authorities are on high alert especially due to Cyprus' proximity to these countries. The Department of Antiquities cooperates extremely closely with the Department of Customs and Excise, which is physically present at all points of entry, exit and in transit through the Republic of Cyprus and EU borders in general. Once a cultural object appears at a point of entry, exit or transit the Department of Customs and Excise notifies the Department of Antiquities, which in turn sends an Archaeological Officer to inspect the specific object/s in order to assess whether further investigations are required. Documents accompanying the object are inspected and further information on the provenance is requested (i.e. any information on the conduct of due diligence is requested). As a result of Resolution 2199, this procedure has been made more efficient and less time consuming. Whereas in the past, the Director of the Department of Antiquities would make a formal request to the Department of Customs and Excise for cultural objects to be temporarily seized for investigation

purposes, since 2014 a special form has been designed for the temporary seizure of cultural goods for investigation purposes. The form is now filled in directly by the Archaeological Officer who investigates the specific cultural good. The investigation procedure has thus been speeded up to a great extent. Following the temporary seizure of a cultural object the Department of Antiquities then notifies the Cyprus Police (Office of Cultural Heritage) and INTERPOL-Nicosia, which then contacts and cooperates further with other specialized organisations, such as INTERPOL, FBI, EUROPOL, and other related bodies, on an international level.

V. Other legislative, legal and administrative measures taken by the State.

1. Accession to the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects.

a) Cyprus ratified the UNIDROIT Convention in 2004.

2. Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation.

Cyprus is one of the four vice-presidents of the above Committee and therefore is very closely involved in the work of the Committee.

3. UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws

Cyprus has sent its relevant legislation to the Database and it is preparing to send the 2014 amendments of the Antiquities Law shortly.