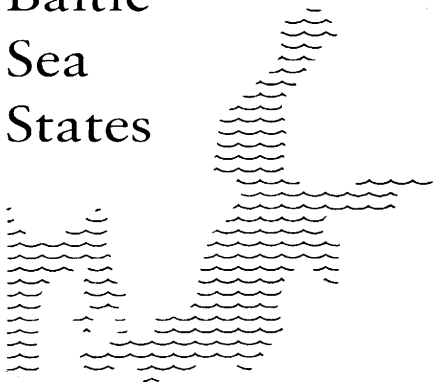


Baltic
Sea
States



Working Group on
Heritage Co-operation

Supplement to the report on

**SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING
THE COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

FRAMEWORK STATEMENTS

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The working group proposes that the Ministers of Culture in the Baltic Sea States at their meeting in Gdansk, September 1999 consider the adoption of the following, as a framework for future Co-operation in the field of cultural heritage.

STATEMENTS

General statements

We the ministers

- *recognize* everyone's right to have access to their heritage and history.
- *consider* public awareness on cultural heritage essential for the development of democracy.
- *consider* the understanding of our common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region an important factor for the peace and stability in the area and by that also recognize the efforts done by Pax Baltica.
- *believe* in all efforts made for creating a sustainable society and that the protection of cultural heritage is inseparable from other environmental protection.
- *consider* all culture created in the Baltic Sea area, regardless of origin or age, our common cultural heritage, thereby also taking responsibility for heritage brought to us by others.
- *emphasize* that cultural heritage, in its broadest sense, contains both tangible and intangible aspects in a complex interaction.
- *stress* that movables and artifacts are fundamental parts of the heritage and identity of every country and must be allowed to interact with their original setting and context.

Statements on areas of main interest.

We the ministers

- *consider* the Baltic Sea itself a fundamental factor for communication, exchange and cooperation throughout history between all the countries surrounding it and therefore consider the maritime heritage essential for a common Baltic Sea identity.
- *agree* that the Baltic Sea should be a safe place for underwater heritage.
- *recognize* the importance of traditional building materials as parts of our common heritage and the development of a sustainable society, thereby pointing out the need for training of craftsmen, research necessary for preserving the materials and information exchange.

- *consider* the protection, promotion and preservation of wooden architecture in the region a main common value.
- *are aware* that our common heritage includes also industrial heritage and contemporary architecture and recognize and support the work by international organisations such as ICOMOS, TICCIH and DOCOMOMO.
- *are aware* that our military heritage, not least from our own century, will be one of the main issues for preservation and new uses in the near future, a challenge where sharing our mutual experiences will be of importance.

Statements on means and tools

We the ministers

- *consider* the flow of heritage information essential for fostering the knowledge of our common culture and therefore support the development of effective tools and systems for information exchange.
- *recognize* the importance of developing common views on heritage protection as well as the coordination of economic, legislative and administrative structures for maintaining and enhancing our cultural heritage.
- *support* education and the exchange of experience in the heritage field.
- *stress* the need for relevant training of craftsmen in order to obtain the skills and knowledge necessary for cultural heritage preservation.
- *stress* the need for producing comprehensive and usable knowledge about the common heritage as basis for town and country planning.
- *recognize* the importance of developing protection and presentation of the archaeological heritage in the region.
- *consider* sustainable cultural tourism important for economical growth, the creation of jobs and a tool for deeper understanding between our countries.