

**Resolution CM/Res(2013)66  
confirming the establishment of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 December 2013  
at the 1187bis meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The representatives to the Committee of Ministers of Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland,

Having regard to the success of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes Programme, based on Resolutions CM/Res(2010)52 and CM/Res(2010)53 on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, which have become essential tools for raising awareness of the shared European heritage as a cornerstone of European citizenship, a means of improving the quality of life and a source of social, economic and cultural development;

Underlining the importance of cultural routes as tangible illustrations, through European trans-border itineraries, of the pluralism and diversity of European culture based on shared values, and as means for intercultural dialogue and understanding;

Noting with satisfaction that 26 cultural routes are now certified as Council of Europe Cultural Routes and that the activities of the networks which implement these routes are constantly growing, spanning across most of continental Europe and beyond, also noting that cultural routes now carry out hundreds of cultural events, educational exchanges and tours each year, involving hundreds of thousands of people, hundreds of organisations and local communities;

Recognising that in order to achieve maximum outreach and impact, the existing cultural routes, as well as the many others in the making, require increased professional assistance and support;

Underlining the essential contribution of the European Institute of Cultural Routes based in Luxembourg in compiling and diffusing information and dealing with increased demand for technical assistance for the setting up of cultural routes, and thanking the Government of Luxembourg for its continuous and generous support to the Institute over many years;

Taking note of the commitment of the Luxembourg Government to continue to provide an annual voluntary contribution to cover the operational costs of the European Cultural Routes Institute in order to enable it to fulfill the tasks given to it by the EPA and of the Supplementary Agreement to the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe concluded between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Council of Europe signed on 28 November 2011 by Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland and the Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn, concerning the EPA;

Noting with satisfaction the solid partnership which has been established between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of cultural routes and cultural tourism, and supporting the continuous reinforcement of this partnership in the future, including the accession of the European Union to the EPA as soon as possible;

Acknowledging the decisive political support of the European Parliament in the establishment of the EPA;

Also noting with satisfaction the new activities which have been initiated with other international organisations such as the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the OECD and UNESCO in this field, and encouraging the further development of these partnerships;

Acknowledging the importance of cultural routes in relation to cross-border cultural co-operation and the development of sustainable cultural tourism which builds upon local knowledge, skills and heritage assets, promoting Europe – including lesser-known regions – as a destination offering a unique cultural experience;

Considering that the EPA provides an adequate operational tool to support the development and promotion of existing and new cultural routes;

Having regard to Resolution [CM/Res\(2010\)53](#) establishing an Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes for an initial period of three years;

In the light of Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)67-rev](#) the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification;

Considering Statutory Resolution [Res\(93\)28](#) on partial and enlarged agreements adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 May 1993 at its 92nd Session;

Having regard to Resolution [Res\(96\)36](#) establishing the criteria for Partial and Enlarged Agreements of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 17 October 1996 at the 575th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, as amended by Resolution [CM/Res\(2010\)2](#), adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 2010 at the 1084th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies,

Resolve as follows:

1. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) is hereby confirmed, to be managed in accordance with the provisions contained in the statute appended to this resolution.
2. The European Cultural Routes Institute will continue to operate with the financial support of the Luxembourg Government under the auspices of the EPA and help to carry out its programme of activities on the basis of the agreement between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Luxembourg authorities of 27 November 2011 as well as an operational agreement between the President of the European Cultural Routes Institute and the Executive Secretary of the EPA.
3. Express the wish that all Council of Europe member States and other States Party to the European Cultural Convention will become members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) in the near future.

*Appendix to Resolution [CM/Res\(2013\)66](#)*

## **Revised Statute of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes**

### **Article 1 – Aims and tasks**

#### **1.1 Aims**

The Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) shall contribute to the promotion of European identity and citizenship through knowledge and awareness of Europe's common heritage, and the development of cultural links and dialogue within Europe as well as with other countries and regions. It shall seek to shape a shared cultural space through the development of cultural routes aiming to foster awareness-raising about heritage, education, networking, quality and sustainable cross-border tourism and other related activities.

The EPA shall contribute to reinforcing the potential of cultural routes for cultural co-operation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion, with a particular focus on themes of symbolic importance for European unity, history, culture and values and the discovery of less well-known destinations. It shall strengthen the democratic dimension of cultural exchange and tourism through the involvement of grassroots networks and associations, local and regional authorities, universities and professional organisations. It shall contribute to the preservation of a diverse heritage through theme-based and alternative tourist itineraries and cultural projects.



The EPA shall contribute to the development and promotion of the cultural routes concept in all its aspects in order to raise awareness globally of Europe as a tourism destination of a unique value and quality.

## **Definitions**

**Cultural Route:** a cultural, educational heritage and tourism co-operation project aiming at the development and promotion of an itinerary or a series of itineraries based on a historic route, a cultural concept, figure or phenomenon with a transnational importance and significance for the understanding and respect of common European values.

**Cultural Route operator:** an organisation or a grouping of organisations legally registered in one or several of the Council of Europe member States, or a public institution, which carries the legal, financial and moral responsibility for the management and functioning of a cultural route and represents the route vis-à-vis the Council of Europe.

**"Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification:** certification awarded to cultural routes that satisfy the criteria outlined in CM/Res(2013)67-rev the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification.

## **1.2 Tasks**

### **Policy making and standard setting**

The EPA, drawing in particular on the expertise of the European Cultural Routes Institute, shall provide advice and expert assistance for the development, implementation, evaluation and promotion of cultural routes. This involves expertise on:

- setting up and functioning of project networks and organisations and the development of co-operation agreements;
- research on the historical background of the routes and the development of the cultural and educational content and activities of the cultural routes;
- development of a sustainable tourist offer based on the cultural routes, thus contributing to the economic well-being of regions;
- preparation and implementation of financing and promotion strategies;
- training and capacity-building for cultural routes operators, in particular in relation to Council of Europe and other international standards in the field of heritage and culture, as well as standards of professional practice in the field of tourism;
- promotion, visibility and all other aspects related to the compliance with the Council of Europe standards.

The EPA shall support networking and exchange between cultural routes operators and other partners in the field of cultural tourism, in particular for:

- the development of a common vision and strategy for cultural routes as tourism products;
- the development of partnerships to increase the resources available for cultural tourism in Europe;
- the identification and dissemination of good practice.

The EPA shall contribute to developing new orientations and standards in relation to cultural routes and tourism in response to the challenges and concerns of modern societies.

The EPA shall develop further methodologies for the promotion of cross-border cultural tourism.

The EPA shall award the Council of Europe Cultural Route certification in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2013)67-rev the rules for the award of the "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" certification.

## **1.3 Programme of activities**

EPA shall implement a programme of activities as decided by the Governing Board.

