

RESOLUTION

Subject: Improving international cooperation and enhancing information exchange on the illicit traffic in cultural property

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 8 November 2012 at its 81st session:

CONSIDERING the importance of cultural heritage to all countries, and its particular vulnerability during periods of crisis,

TAKING NOTE of the growing challenge posed by the illicit traffic in all kinds of works of art and antiquities,

AWARE of the large number of sales of cultural objects, the profits generated from these sales and the risk concerning objects of illicit origin,

RECALLING resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly:

- AGN/64/RES/5, Beijing, 1995: Communication of information on stolen works of art,
- AGN/64/RES/6, Beijing, 1995: Stolen cultural property,

ACKNOWLEDGING that receiving and sharing information on a regular basis is a decisive factor in identifying criminals and disrupting the criminal networks involved in the illicit traffic in cultural heritage at the international, regional and national levels,

NOTING that INTERPOL's activities in this specialized field – in particular delivering specialized training, organizing conferences and working groups, making the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art available, and coordinating operations – are important to the law enforcement community worldwide in its protection of cultural heritage,

ENCOURAGES member countries to consider the fight against the illicit traffic in cultural heritage as a law enforcement priority to ensure regular reporting on art crime to the General Secretariat, in conformity with INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data, for the purposes of data entry, criminal analysis, targeted operations and tailored training, and to support INTERPOL's efforts in addressing this type of crime;

ASKS member countries to regularly check items of cultural property seized or offered for sale under dubious circumstances against relevant databases, including INTERPOL's current Stolen Works of Art database, and to promote its public online access to other bodies and entities concerned;

ENCOURAGES member countries, in light of Italy's successful bid to the European Commission aimed at modernizing INTERPOL's database on works of art, to take the necessary preparatory steps at the national level, such as reporting art theft cases, so that such cases may be systematically and directly recorded in the modernized INTERPOL Works of Art database.

Approved