

No. 2955

**BELGIUM, DENMARK, FRANCE,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
GREECE, etc.**

European Cultural Convention. Signed at Paris, on 19 December 1954

Official texts: English and French.

Registered on 29 September 1955 by the Council of Europe acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with Resolution (54) 6 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted on 3 April 1954.

**BELGIQUE, DANEMARK, FRANCE,
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE,
GRÈCE, etc.**

Convention culturelle européenne. Signée à Paris le 19 décembre 1954.

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée le 29 septembre 1955 par le Conseil de l'Europe agissant au nom des Parties contractantes, conformément à la résolution (54) 6 du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe adoptée le 3 avril 1954.

No. 2955. EUROPEAN CULTURAL CONVENTION.¹ SIGNED
AT PARIS, ON 19 DECEMBER 1954

The Governments signatory hereto, being Members of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose, among others, of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage ;

Considering that the achievement of this aim would be furthered by a greater understanding of one another among the peoples of Europe ;

Considering that for these purposes it is desirable not only to conclude bilateral cultural conventions between Members of the Council but also to pursue a policy of common action designed to safeguard and encourage the development of European culture ;

Having resolved to conclude a general European Cultural Convention designed to foster among the nationals of all Members, and of such other European States as may accede thereto, the study of the languages, history and civilisation of the others and of the civilisation which is common to them all,

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate measures to safeguard and to encourage the development of its national contribution to the common cultural heritage of Europe.

¹ In accordance with article 9, the Convention came into force on 5 May 1955, the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification, in respect of the following signatories on behalf of which the instruments of ratification were deposited on the dates indicated :

Ireland	11 March 1955
France	19 March 1955
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 May 1955

With the following declaration :

« On depositing this day on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the Instrument of Ratification of the European Cultural Convention, which was signed at Paris on the 19th of December, 1954, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Macmillan to inform you, in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 thereof, that the said Ratification is in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but not of the other territories for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom are responsible. »

The Convention came into force subsequently in respect of the following signatories on the dates indicated upon deposit of the instruments of ratification :

Denmark	7 May 1955
Belgium	11 May 1955

Article 2

Each Contracting Party shall, insofar as may be possible,

(a) encourage the study by its own nationals of the languages, history and civilisation of the other Contracting Parties and grant facilities to those Parties to promote such studies in its territory, and

(b) endeavour to promote the study of its language or languages, history and civilisation in the territory of the other Contracting Parties and grant facilities to the nationals of those Parties to pursue such studies in its territory.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall consult with one another within the framework of the Council of Europe with a view to concerted action in promoting cultural activities of European interest.

Article 4

Each Contracting Party shall, insofar as may be possible, facilitate the movement and exchange of persons as well as of objects of cultural value so that Articles 2 and 3 may be implemented.

Article 5

Each Contracting Party shall regard the objects of European cultural value placed under its control as integral parts of the common cultural heritage of Europe, shall take appropriate measures to safeguard them and shall ensure reasonable access thereto.

Article 6

1. Proposals for the application of the provisions of the present Convention and questions relating to the interpretation thereof shall be considered at meetings of the Committee of Cultural Experts of the Council of Europe.

2. Any State not a member of the Council of Europe which has acceded to the present Convention in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 9 may appoint a representative or representatives to participate in the meetings provided for in the preceding paragraph.

3. The conclusions reached at the meetings provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be submitted in the form of recommendations to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, unless they are decisions which are within the competence of the Committee of Cultural Experts as relating to matters of an administrative nature which do not entail additional expenditure.

4. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall communicate to the Members of the Council and to the Government of any State which has acceded to the present Convention any decisions relevant thereto which may be taken by the Committee of Ministers or by the Committee of Cultural Experts.

5. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe in due course of any action which may be taken by it for the application of the provisions of the present Convention consequent on the decisions of the Committee of Ministers or of the Committee of Cultural Experts.

6. In the event of certain proposals for the application of the present Convention being found to interest only a limited number of the Contracting Parties, such proposals may be further considered in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, provided that their implementation entails no expenditure by the Council of Europe.

Article 7

If, in order to further the aims of the present Convention, two or more Contracting Parties desire to arrange meetings at the seat of the Council of Europe other than those specified in paragraph 1 of Article 6, the Secretary-General of the Council shall afford them such administrative assistance as they may require.

Article 8

Nothing in the present Convention shall be deemed to affect

(a) the provisions of any existing bilateral cultural convention to which any of the Contracting Parties may be signatory or to render less desirable the conclusion of any further such convention by any of the Contracting Parties, or

(b) the obligation of any person to comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of any Contracting Party concerning the entry, residence and departure of foreigners.

Article 9

1. The present Convention shall be open to the signature of the Members of the Council of Europe. It shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

2. As soon as three signatory Governments have deposited their instruments of ratification, the present Convention shall enter into force as between those Governments.

3. With respect to each signatory Government ratifying subsequently, the Convention shall enter into force on the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification.