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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Conference on the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, May 13 -15 2024 <i>- Information from the Netherlands' delegation</i>

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Netherlands' delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 14 May 2024.

Conference on the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property
in the event of armed conflict, 13-15 May 2024

Information from the Netherlands' delegation

The Netherlands will organise, together with UNESCO, an international conference commemorating the conclusion 70 years ago of the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. The welcome ceremony will take place in the Peace Palace in The Hague, the very venue where the Convention was concluded.

The Convention is still as relevant today as it was 70 years ago, with wars in Ukraine and in Israel and Gaza, where cultural heritage is vulnerable and sometimes a target to attack communities, in heart and in spirit. That is why the Netherlands and its partners continue to build on the goal of this international instrument in order to protect cultural heritage and to work towards peace.

In The Hague, various stakeholders will take stock of the achievements and lessons learned in the implementation of these instruments. Ministers from different parts of the world will reflect on their actions and challenges in relation to the Convention. The conference aims to guide, on the basis of discussions, the future of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols.

The conference will be live streamed and will be available for viewing after the event on the UNESCO Youtube channel.