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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Towards a more sustainable management of cultural heritage
- Information from the Spanish delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Spanish 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 29-30 November 2021.

TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

- *Information note from the Spanish delegation* -

The climate crisis through which we are living requires solutions and change – not only in the way we live, consume and produce, but also in the way we understand culture and heritage. Social awareness of the impact of the climate crisis on cultural heritage is therefore increasing rapidly.

Culture, including tangible and intangible cultural heritage, offers great potential for sustainable development and can contribute substantially to finding solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. Protecting our cultural heritage can encourage a fair and inclusive transition towards low-carbon and climate change-resilient growth – a transition that will contribute to the goal and targets of the Paris Agreement while taking into account different national circumstances.

Against this background and in line with the transformative spirit of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, we suggest that the European Commission prepare a *Green Paper on the sustainable use of cultural heritage* that lays down technical, ethical and economic parameters for the use of cultural heritage as a sustainable resource. This Green Paper could also study the incorporation into the heritage sector of preventive preservation systems that are more sustainable and effective, in order to tackle the climate crisis. It could promote the inclusion of civil society in the management of cultural heritage and provide tools for the administrations involved to draw up heritage management plans.

We are aware that, in the last few years, this topic has been analysed through several initiatives driven by different institutions, and in this regard the Green Paper could take stock of best practices and become a significant point of reference in this field. Furthermore, this Green Paper would reinforce the cultural roots of the NEB.