



Secretariat for the Convention for the  
Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Madrid, 1 February 2019

The reason for this letter to the Secretariat is to inform about the insistent requests, through emails, letters and meetings which have been transmitted to Italy since the beginning of June 2018 about the interest of Spain to be integrated into the nomination "*Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock along migratory routes in the Mediterranean and in the Alps*".

In this sense, the different communications that have taken place to date are attached to this letter and, unfortunately, they did not have a written answer from Italy.

This attitude is contrary to the spirit and letter of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is precisely based on international cooperation and which specifically in section 13 of the Operational Directives encourages States Parties to submit multi-national nominations when an element can be found in the territory of several States Parties.

It should also be noted that transhumance has an extraordinary relevance throughout our national territory, as evidenced by the fact that in our country the community requested the incorporation of Spain since the moment it became aware that other countries were working on this project.

In addition to this, we must highlight the willingness on the States Parties of Austria and Greece to withdraw the file nomination in order to submit a more complete one, integrating Spain. It is evidenced by the letters of these two countries that are also attached.

Likewise, logic and common sense tell us to include Spain before the submission of the nomination file and not as a subsequent extension, since the extensions imply an "ex novo" wording of the nomination by all the States, which implies to start the work again and double the effort, a situation that is not sustainable or justifiable and that nevertheless can be avoided.



Finally, we would like to ask the Secretariat to forward the contents of this letter as well as the attachments to it, both to the Evaluation Body and to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in accordance with the principle of transparency with which UNESCO has always worked.

Renewing the high consideration that the work of this Secretariat develops in an effective protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, I remain

Yours sincerely

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

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