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Ministry of Culture and National Identity

Reçu CLT / CIH / ICH	<i>The Minister</i>
Le	- 5 DEC. 2017
N°

Mr. Tim CURTIS
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
Division for Creativity
UNESCO Culture Sector

Ref.: File **No. 01287** – Multinational nomination of *Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March*, submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Romania

Dear Mr. Curtis,

The Ministries of Culture of Romania, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria acknowledge that the Draft Decision 12.COM.11.b.7 takes note that all criteria for inscription of the file no. 01287 (*Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March*) on the Representative List are satisfied, except for criterion R.5, because “the manner in which the inventories are updated is not clearly indicated in the cases of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova, nor is it clear how the communities are involved in the updating process”.

Consequently, we would like to provide to the Committee the following explanations on the manner of updating ICH inventories in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova, with the involvement of concerned communities:

For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

1) The digital character of the Inventory of the Cultural Heritage has by definition and intrinsically the main purpose to assure permanent updates and access for communities and all stakeholders involved in this process in real time and defining their activities on the protection of this invaluable cultural heritage;

2) To this purpose, from January 2017 until September 2017, the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, with all its staff and physical materials and documents, and at the same time the server of the Digital Inventory of Cultural Heritage (www.niskn.gov.mk) has been the subject of a full relocation and has been technically



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improved with the important support of the experts within the Department for Registration, Digitization, Archaeological Land Registry and Information Technology (further named: the Department) within the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, who are working permanently to process and upload updates on *Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March (Martinkî)*;

3) Communities and individuals involved in the nomination process send regularly to the Department hard copy presentations of their activities dedicated to the safeguarding of the element. Several hundred units have been registered so far, serving as material for updating the Digital Inventory;

4) The Digital Inventory of Cultural Heritage is speaking itself and is proving all these aspects once it is accessed, this is why the link included in the Nomination form ICH-02, p. 20, item 5 is sufficient because it leads to full information on permanent updating and community involvement in this ongoing process;

5) Further details and explanations are available in the enclosed excerpt of the Register of Cultural Heritage of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (updated on 8 November, 2017), prepared by the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, within the Ministry of Culture of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which we submit to the Committee.

For the Republic of Moldova:

The National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Moldova is expressly stipulated in the Nomination form ICH-02, p. 20, item 5.

According to the provisions of the Law No. 58 from 2012 on the protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Moldova (art. 9) - the Ministry of Culture, Education and Science of the Republic of Moldova, through the ICH National Commission, is responsible to maintain the Inventory as follows:

- approval of the regulation document,
- completion and permanent up-dating of the heritage files of each element included in the registry, with the participation of researchers, specialists, bearing communities and relevant NGO's, and its publication, on paper and web resources.

The action to maintain the inventory implies, as a legal provision of national legislation of the Republic of Moldova and as a sine qua non condition, the permanent up-dating of the inventory, as a national legal obligation of the Ministry of Culture / ICH National Commission of the Republic of Moldova. In the process of



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inventorying and permanent updating were developed several types of questionnaires, addressed to local administration and bearing communities at local level.

National legislation concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage has been improved by:

1.1. Government Order no.385/ 12.30.2016, completing the Regulation on the national and local inventories of ICH and including provisions for constant updating of the National Inventory, on the basis of heritage files;

1.2. Government Decision no.271/ 04.09.2014, approving the National Strategy for Development of Culture - "Culture 2020" and including an Action Plan in which clear objectives and activities for elaboration and updating of ICH inventories are specified, such as elaboration of a second volume of the National Inventory and also of local inventories.

1) Following provisions of the Action Plan mentioned above (1.2), the process of preparing local inventories has started in 2017. Several local seminars and meetings have been organized with participation of local administration in different districts. Having as model the National Inventory of ICH, local communities are able to take active part in the elaboration and updating of their own inventories, with support of district cultural departments and local administration;

2) Further details (in Romanian) are available at the following Internet addresses:

<http://www.mc.gov.md/ro/content/patrimoniul-cultural> (digital form of the Inventory, according to the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage);

www.patrimoniulmaterial.md (form of the Inventory in Romanian and English versions, issued as hard copy book in 2012; heritage files);

<http://www.mc.gov.md/ro/content/documente-de-politici> (text of the Strategy and Action Plan mentioned at 1.2, with provisions for updating the Inventory with involvement of communities, individuals, NGOs and other concerned actors).

Therefore, regarding the draft decision reference to a non-clear information on updating mechanisms of the ICH Inventory and on the involvement of communities in this process, provided by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova at criterion R.5, **we consider that this is just a matter of wording used to define a procedure that fully complies with the requirements of the UNESCO Convention (art.**



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11-12) and cannot be interpreted as information that is not clearly indicated or not in line with the provisions of this document.

We are confident that the members of the Committee will take into consideration the useful and natural explanations presented above, which strongly support, in our opinion, the Decision of inscription of the element *Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March* on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

On behalf of the four submitting States Parties:

Romania, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

Lucian ROMASCANU

Minister of Culture and National Identity of Romania



Paris, 29 November 2017

Mr. Tim CURTIS
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
Division for Creativity
UNESCO Culture Sector

Ref.: File No. 01287 – Multinational nomination of *Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March*, submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Romania

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Consequently, we would like to provide to the Committee the following explanations on the manner of updating ICH inventories in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova, with the involvement of concerned communities:

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element. Several hundred units have been registered so far, serving as material for updating the Digital Inventory;

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- approval of the regulation document,
- completion and permanent up-dating of the heritage files of each element included in the registry, with the participation of researchers, specialists, bearing communities and relevant NGO's, and its publication, on paper and web resources.

The action to maintain the inventory implies, as a legal provision of national legislation of the Republic of Moldova and as a sine qua non condition, the permanent up-dating of the inventory, as a national legal obligation of the Ministry of Culture / ICH National Commission of the Republic of Moldova. In the process of inventorying and permanent updating were developed several types of questionnaires, addressed to local administration and bearing communities at local level.

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Therefore, regarding the draft decision reference to a non-clear information on updating mechanisms of the ICH Inventory and on the involvement of communities in this process, provided by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova at criterion R.5, **we consider that this is just a matter of wording used to define a procedure that fully complies with the requirements of the UNESCO Convention (art. 11-12) and cannot be interpreted as information that is not clearly indicated or not in line with the provisions of this document.**

We are confident that the members of the Committee will take into consideration the useful and natural explanations presented above, which strongly support, in our opinion, the Decision of Inscription of the element *Cultural Practices Associated to the 1st of March* on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Please accept, dear Mr. Secretary, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Permanent Delegate
of Bulgaria to UNESCO

Anguel Tcholakov

Permanent Delegate
of the Republic of
Macedonia to UNESCO

Gabriel Atanasov

Permanent Delegate
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Библиографија

Автори	Наслов	Година	Подаци на издавач	ИДМ/ИДМ-код
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