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Protection of
Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict

**Four-year cycle
2017-2020**

**Questionnaire
National report on the implementation of the 1954 Hague
Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols**

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Region:

State Party:
Austria

2. Submission of previous national reports

2.1. 2013-2016 cycle

Yes

No

3. Actors involved in the preparation of the national report

3.1. Government institutions responsible for the protection of cultural property

3.2. National Commission for UNESCO

3.3. Military expert

3.4. Independent experts

If other actors have been involved, please indicate them

4. National Focal Point

According to paragraph 120 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol: *"Unless a Party requests otherwise, the presumed focal point would be its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO."* If you do not consider the Permanent Delegation as a focal point, you are invited to provide the Secretariat with the name and address of a national focal point who will receive all official documents and correspondence related to the national periodic reporting.

Institution: Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport - Dept. IV/B/4 Monument Protection, Baukultur and Art Restitution

Name: Hannah Leodolter

Address: Concordiaplatz 2, 1010 Vienna

Email: hannah.leodolter@bmkoes.gv.at

Tel.: 0043 1 71606 851045

Fax:

I. The Hague Convention of 1954

1. Article 3 - Safeguarding of cultural property

This Article provides for the obligation of the High Contracting Parties to adopt relevant peacetime safeguarding measures against the foreseeable effects of an armed conflict.

- *Has your State undertaken such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

-) Lists of protected cultural property, referring to the 1954 Hague Convention, can be found on the website of the Federal Monuments Authority Austria, which protects and maintains the material cultural heritage: <https://bda.gv.at/denkmalverzeichnis/#kulturgueterschutzliste> (Regulation of the Federal Minister of Education, Arts and Culture on the measures to be taken pursuant to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Federal Law Gazette II No 51/2009 (BGBl. II Nr. 51/2009), to maintain such a list) -) Liaison-Officers (LO – Verbindungsoffiziere) for Military Cultural Property Protection (milCPP – militärischer Kulturgüterschutz) and Military Experts CPP (Militärexperten KGS) from the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Austria/Austrian Armed Forces (AAF) - see answer to question I.3, Military Measures

2. Article 6 - Use of the distinctive emblem for the marking of cultural property

The 1954 Hague Convention creates a distinctive emblem for the exclusive marking of cultural property, with a view to ensure its recognition, particularly in the event of armed conflict. The marking of cultural property is one of the preparatory measures that can be undertaken in time of peace.

- *Has your State **marked cultural property** by using the distinctive emblem of the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

3. Article 7 - Military measures

This Article provides for the obligations of the High Contracting Parties with regard to the introduction in their regulations or instructions for the use of their armed forces of provisions to ensure compliance with the Convention, as well as to plan or establish within their armed forces, services or specialist personnel whose purpose will be to secure respect for cultural property and to co-operate with the civilian authorities responsible for safeguarding such property. These are obligations to be implemented in time of peace.

- *Has your State introduced provisions in the **regulations and instructions for your armed forces** to ensure compliance with the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

The Hague Convention and its two Protocols are fully respected in all the relevant military regulations and instructions. As far as the Austrian Armed Forces (AAF) are concerned, the principles of the protection of cultural property are anchored in an ANNEX to the Strategic Military Concept of the Austrian Armed Forces (MSC, Militärstrategisches Konzept) on Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC). The military-strategic aim as regards the Protection of Cultural Property is the safeguarding of relevant information, measures, forces, means and capacities between departments of the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Austria and the Austrian Armed Forces (AAF) on the one hand, and the relevant civilian authorities/organizations and the affected population on the other hand. The Directive for Military Cultural Property Protection and the Military Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage – pursuant to the Hague Convention and the Second Protocol – ensures that preparations for the protection of cultural property against the foreseeable effects of armed conflict have to be made already during peace-time at all levels of military command and determines tasks and instructions for the protection of cultural property during domestic and international operations of the Austrian Armed Forces (AAF), for general operations preparation and therefore especially for the training in the field of milCPP and the employment of LO/milCPP. The detailed specifications regarding the assignments, tasks, training, further and continuation training of the LO/milCPP are laid down in the guidelines concerning the Civil Military Liaison Service (CMLS). Specially trained Liaison-Officers (LO – Verbindungsoffiziere) / Military Cultural Property Protection (milCPP – militärischer Kulturgüterschutz) ensure the implementation of the Hague Conventions and its Protocols in all relevant military activities. Therefore, according to the MSC and its ANNEX on Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC), specially trained personnel are provided for every level of command. Within the international crisis management Cultural Awareness and Securing Cultural Heritage is given more and more attention. Securing Cultural Heritage means more than the safeguarding of a specific cultural good and deals also with the social, political, cultural and economic factors and the social framework of the people concerned.

Regarding the complexity of Cultural Heritage Protection, corresponding research is carried out within the AAF and related areas of expertise (e.g. Architecture, Geography, Engineering) are covered by Military Experts CPP. Cultural Property Protection is part of the training within the AAF. The National Defence Academy (Landesverteidigungsakademie) offers advanced training courses in CPP.

- *Has your State established **services** or designated specialist personnel *within your armed forces* to ensure respect for cultural property?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

See previous answer

4. Article 25 - Dissemination of the Convention

Regulations relating to the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict must be included into the programmes of military and, if possible, civilian training. The objective is to ensure that the principles of the Convention are known by the whole population, especially the armed forces and personnel engaged in the protection of cultural property.

- *Has your State **disseminated the provisions of the Convention** within the armed forces as well as among target groups and the general public?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

See answer to question I.3

5. Article 26(1) - Official translations

This Article requires that the High Contracting Parties communicate to one another, through the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the official translations of the present Convention and of the Regulations for its execution:

Please submit a copy / copies of such translation(s), in electronic format, if possible, to the Secretariat"

Please annex an electronic copy of your translation(s) to this report:

Attach the document

See attachments, also available online, Federal Law Gazette: [RIS - Konvention zum Schutz von Kulturgut bei bewaffneten Konflikten samt Ausführungsbestimmungen und Protokoll - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 11.02.2022 \(bka.gv.at\)](#); [RIS - Konvention zum Schutz von Kulturgut bei bewaffneten Konflikten – 2. Protokoll - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 11.02.2022 \(bka.gv.at\)](#) and [RIS - Kulturgüterschutzverordnung - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 11.02.2022 \(bka.gv.at\)](#)

6. Article 28 - Sanctions

This Article provides for the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to take, within the framework of their ordinary criminal jurisdiction, all necessary steps to prosecute and impose penal or disciplinary sanctions upon those persons, regardless of their nationality, who commit or order a breach of the Convention.

- *Has your State **introduced in your domestic legislation** all necessary steps to prosecute and impose penal or disciplinary sanctions against a conduct contrary to the obligations set out in the Convention?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Apart from general criminal offences, such as the damage of property, theft and embezzlement § 321c of the Austrian Criminal Code sanctions “War crimes against property and other rights”:

“§ 321c Whoever, in connection with an armed conflict.

1. Looted or, without being required by the exigencies of the armed conflict, otherwise destroys, appropriates, or seizes property of the opposing party or its nationals to a significant extent in violation of international law,

2. destroys or appropriates cultural property as defined in the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Federal Law Gazette No. 58/1964, on a large scale, or

3. orders, in violation of international law, that rights and claims of all or part of the nationals of the opposing party be suspended or annulled, or that they be unenforceable in a court of law, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to ten years.”
(unofficial translation)

II. Resolution II of the 1954 Conference

- *Has your State established a **National Advisory Committee** in accordance with the wish expressed by the Intergovernmental Conference (1954) in [Resolution II](#)?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

There is still no committee, but governmental and non-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations work closely together and exchange views on an informal basis.

- *In the event that you have established a National Advisory Committee, has it been incorporated into a national commission for the implementation of international humanitarian law?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

III. 1954 (First) Protocol

[To be completed only by the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Protocol]

The main purpose of the 1954 Protocol is the protection of cultural property in **or stemming from** occupied territory.

- *Has your State undertaken **measures to implement** these international obligations, including the adoption of relevant legislation?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

In particular § 13 of the Federal Act on the Protection of Monuments Due to Their Historical, Artistic or Other Cultural Significance (Federal Monument Protection Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 533/1923): "Measures Pursuant to the Hague Convention" and § 321c of the Austrian Criminal Code (see answer to question I.6).

IV. The 1999 Second Protocol

[To be filled in only by the Parties to the 1999 Second Protocol]

The 1999 Second Protocol supplements the 1954 Hague Convention in many respects. In case the information has already been presented in the context of questions relating to the 1954 Hague Convention, you can directly refer to it.

1. Article 5 - Safeguarding of cultural property

Article 5 of the Second Protocol supplements Article 3 of the Hague Convention by providing concrete examples of preparatory measures to be undertaken in time of peace, such as the preparation of inventories of cultural property or the designation of competent authorities responsible for the safeguarding of cultural property.

- *Has your State undertaken such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

See in particular answer to question I.1

2. Article 9 - Protection of cultural property in occupied territory

Article 9 of the Second Protocol complements Article 5 of the 1954 Hague Convention by imposing specific obligations on the occupying power. Paragraph 119 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol requires Parties that are occupying powers to provide information in their national reports on how the provisions relating to the protection of cultural property in occupied territory are being respected.

- *Do you ensure compliance with the provisions relating to the **protection of cultural property in the context of military occupation**?*

YES: NO: Not applicable:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

3. Article 10 - Enhanced protection

The 1999 Second Protocol establishes an enhanced protection regime. Enhanced protection is granted by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (composed of 12 Parties).

- *Do you **intend to request the granting** of enhanced protection for cultural property within the next four years or, if appropriate, to submit a **national tentative list** under Article 11 (1) of the 1999 Second Protocol?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

MONITORING OF CULTURAL PROPERTY UNDER ENHANCED PROTECTION

[If some cultural property in your State benefits from enhanced protection, please also fill in this part of the questionnaire].

The benefit of enhanced protection implies the continued fulfilment of the conditions provided for in Article 10 of the 1999 Second Protocol.

- *Is a **specific mechanism for monitoring cultural property under enhanced protection** in place? For example, are the measures undertaken to ensure the highest level of protection periodically reviewed to ensure their full adequacy in all circumstances?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

Pursuant to paragraph 94 of the Guidelines, a distinctive emblem is created for the exclusive marking of cultural property under enhanced protection.

- *Has your State **marked with the distinctive emblem** cultural property under enhanced protection?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

4. Article 15 - Serious violations of the 1999 Second Protocol

“Article 15 obliges Parties to **establish as criminal** offences in their domestic law offences constituting serious breaches of the Second Protocol, **and to make such offences punishable by** appropriate penalties”.

- *Has your State **implemented this obligation**? If yes, what measures have been undertaken?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

§ 321c of the Austrian Criminal Code, see answer to question I.6

5. Article 16 - Jurisdiction

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Second Protocol, the Parties shall take the necessary legislative measures to establish their jurisdiction over offences set forth in Article 15 of the 1999 Second Protocol in certain cases.

- *Has your State **implemented this obligation**?* If yes, what measures have been undertaken **to grant jurisdiction to your courts** over serious offences under the 1999 Second Protocol?

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

6. Article 21 - Measures regarding other violations

The 1999 Second Protocol obliges Parties to adopt legislative, administrative or disciplinary measures as may be necessary to **suppress certain other violations of the Second Protocol**:

a. any use of cultural property in violation of the 1954 Hague Convention or the 1999 Second Protocol;

b. any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property from occupied territory in violation of the 1954 Hague Convention or the 1999 Second Protocol.

- *Has your State implemented such measures?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

7. Article 30 - Dissemination

Article 30 of the Second Protocol complements Articles 7 and 25 of the 1954 Hague Convention. In this regard, Article 30 it asks the Parties, to endeavour by appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect for cultural property by their entire population, to ensure the dissemination of the 1999 Second Protocol, and to incorporate in their military regulations' guidelines and instructions for the protection of cultural property.

- *Has your State **disseminated the provisions of the Convention and the Second Protocol** within the armed forces as well as to target groups and the general public?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

See answer to question I.3

8. Article 33 – Assistance of UNESCO

Pursuant to paragraph 151 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol, the Parties having activities at bilateral or multilateral level are invited to inform the Committee, in their periodic reports, of their activities in order to share their experiences or good practices.

- *Has your State shared, in particular through the Secretariat of UNESCO, your experiences and good practices in implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and / or its Protocols?*

YES: NO:

You can complete your answer below, taking into account the guidelines in the model report.

9. Article 37 - Official translation of the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention

Pursuant to Article 37 of the Second Protocol, the Parties shall translate the 1999 Second Protocol into their official language(s) of their countries and shall communicate these official translations to the Director-General.

Please submit a copy / copies of such translation(s), in electronic format, if possible, to the Secretariat.

Please annex an electronic copy of your translation(s) to this report.

V. Other questions relating to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols

1. Ratification of / accession to other international treaties having provisions of the protection of cultural property

- Can you indicate the other international instruments to which your State is a party?

International instruments	Ratification/Accession
1970 UNESCO Convention on the means on Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Ratification
1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the World, Cultural and Natural Heritage	Ratification
2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Ratification
2005 UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions	Ratification
Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratification
Additional Protocol (II) to the Geneva Conventions, 1977	Ratification
Additional Protocol (III) to the Geneva Conventions, 2005	Ratification

2. National practice relating to the implementation of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols

The Secretariat would be grateful if you could annex a copy of the following documents in French and/or English:

- Relevant **civil and military administrative regulations**:

PDF Document Website

- **National laws** relating to the protection of cultural property, as well as criminal provisions adopted in the context of the implementation of Article 28 of the Hague Convention and Articles 15, 16 and 21 of the Second Protocol, and case law relating to the protection of cultural property.

PDF Document Website

- Documents relating to awareness-raising activities (seminar programme, brochures, etc.), as well as any other document (legislative, judicial or administrative) relevant to the dissemination of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol.

PDF Document

Website

3. Effectiveness of cooperation mechanisms at the national level

- The implementation of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols requires cooperation at the national level between the various authorities (civil, military, etc.). Can you assess the degree of cooperation, at the national level, in your State?

There is no cooperation between the different authorities

There is limited cooperation between the different authorities

There is cooperation between the various authorities, but there are still improvements to be made

There is a perfectly functional cooperation between the different authorities

Other (specify)

VI. Self-assessment forms

In order to reflect in the synthesis document of the national reports the status of implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol in key areas, please fill in the two tables below.

1. Assessment of the degree of implementation

[To do this, please use the following rating scale]

1. Not at all implemented;
2. Partially implemented and the process is at standstill;
3. Partially implemented, the process following its course; and
4. Fully implemented.

Implementation of the safeguarding obligation through the adoption of preparatory measures	4
Military training on regulations for the protection of cultural property	3
Use of the distinctive emblem to mark cultural property	3
Implementation of the obligation to disseminate, through the implementation of awareness-raising activities for target audiences	3
Adoption of relevant criminal legislation	4
<i>For Parties with cultural property under enhanced protection only.</i>
Establishment of a monitoring system for cultural property under enhanced protection at the national level	

2. Assessment of the difficulties encountered

[To do this, please use the following rating scale]

1. Difficulties are encountered, but there are no plans to seek technical assistance from the UNESCO Secretariat;
2. Difficulties are encountered, nevertheless, it is planned to make use of the technical assistance of the UNESCO Secretariat;
3. Difficulties were encountered, but thanks to the technical assistance of the Secretariat they could be resolved;
4. Difficulties were encountered at first, but they turned into challenges that were overcome; and
5. No difficulties were encountered.

Implementation of the safeguarding obligation through the adoption of preparatory measures	4
Military training on regulations for the protection of cultural property	4
Use of the distinctive emblem to mark cultural property	4
Implementation of the obligation to disseminate, through the implementation of awareness-raising activities for target audiences	4
Adoption of relevant criminal legislation	4
<i>For Parties with cultural property under enhanced protection only.</i>
Establishment of a monitoring system for cultural property under enhanced protection at the national level	

VII. Enhanced protection mechanism – Opinion survey

Pursuant to Chapter 3 of the 1999 Second Protocol, enhanced protection is granted by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict if three criteria are cumulatively met:

- ✓ Cultural property is of the greatest importance to humanity;
- ✓ Cultural property is protected by adequate domestic, legal and administrative measures recognising its exceptional cultural and historical value and ensuring the highest level of protection; and
- ✓ Cultural property must not be used for military purposes or to shield military sites. And the Party which has control over the cultural property has to make a declaration confirming that it will not be used for military purposes or to shield military sites.

As these conditions are set out in an international treaty, their interpretation cannot be made independently of State practice, which is of fundamental importance under international treaty law. Therefore, this national report is an opportunity for the national authorities of the Parties to express their views on the conditions under which enhanced protection is granted.

For each of the conditions set out in Article 10 of the Second Protocol, please answer the following questions, taking into consideration the relevant paragraphs of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Second Protocol.

- Article 10, paragraph (a) - "The greatest importance for humanity"

Please list the main factors to be undertaken into consideration in determining whether a cultural property is of the greatest importance for humanity?

- Article 10, paragraph (b) - "The highest level of protection"

Please mention the national authorities to be consulted in determining the choice of measures to be adopted to ensure the highest level of protection for a cultural property for which enhanced protection is requested. What measures can ensure the highest level of protection?

- Article 10, paragraph (c) - "Not-used for military purposes"

Please mention the national authorities to be consulted in order to take the decision not to use the proposed cultural property for granting enhanced protection for military purposes or to shield military sites?
