

VISEGRÁD GROUP. COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF VISEGRÁD 4 IN BRATISLAVA (9-10 OCTOBER 2000)

The meeting of ministers of culture of Visegrád Group countries was held in Bratislava on 9-10 October 2000. Participating in the meeting were Milan Kňažko, Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, Pavel Dostál, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, Zoltán Rockenbauer, Minister of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Hungary and Arkadiusz Rybicki, Under – Secretary of State of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

The meeting was preceded by deliberations of experts from individual countries discussing ways and methods of coordination the area of international cultural relations and the role of V – 4 countries in cultural cooperation within international organisations.

On the basis of recommendations of experts, the ministers of culture of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, The Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary have decided:

- 1) To improve mutual information of the ministries when participating in the events organised by European and international organisations and bodies, co-ordinate joint action at the preparatory stage but also in the implementation of individual results in their own countries.
- 2) To introduce ourselves in European cultural organisations as a consistent platform of the „Visegrád Group“. In dealing with the outside world, joint activities will be presented by the so-called spokesman of the Visegrád Group, that is, the country, which currently presides over the Group.
- 3) To draft an address for the Council of Cultural Cooperation in the Council of Europe (CDCC) on activities of the Visegrád Group.
- 4) To initiate presentation of the Visegrád Group in the area of culture in countries of the European Union, making use of the existing projects and the network of cultural institutes of individual countries.
- 5) To co-ordinate action in respect of other international groupings and institutions to raise the efficiency and achieve synergy in the implementation and presentation of projects of V – 4 countries.

Equally, ministers of culture of the Visegrád Group have reviewed the submitted projects, in which all participating countries take part and have agreed:

- 1) To set the methodology of cooperation at three levels
 - a) information sharing and fostering bilateral activities
 - b) collaboration in the projects within V – 4
 - c) presentation of V – 4 in relation to the European public,
- 2) To identify priorities of co-operation for the forthcoming period in the areas of theatre, cinematography and cultural heritage,

- 3) To support common projects of individual priority areas,
- 4) To advise the Visegrád Fund on the cultural priorities as agreed upon by the Visegrád Group ministers of culture meeting,
- 5) To support priority projects using available national budget mechanisms
- 6) To initiate the development of mechanism of coordination and information between the Visegrád Fund platform and regular meetings of ministers of culture of the Visegrád Group.

The next meeting of the ministers of culture of the Visegrád Group will be held in the Czech Republic in February 2001 on the theme media policy and cultural heritage.

Milan Kňažko, Minister of Culture, Slovak Republic

Pavel Dostál, Minister of Culture, Czech Republic

Zoltán Rockenbauer, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Republic of Hungary

Arkadiusz Rybicki, Under – Secretary of State of Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Republic of Poland

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