Export of cultural goods (amend. annex Regul. 3911/92/EEC)

1995/0253(CNS) - 31/01/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee approves the proposed specific, limited amendments to the Annexes, insofar as they are designed to bring about greater legal certainty in respect of the implementation of the EU provisions. With a view to the three-yearly review of both the Regulation and the Directive 93/7/EEC - due to be carried out in 1996 - and in the light of the implementation reports provided for in Article 10 of the Regulation and Article 16 of the Directive, the Committee does, however, wish to take this opportunity to call upon the Commission to attach especial importance to the following: - the level of implementation of the Regulation and the Directive in the various Member States; - the advisability of introducing a form of "passport" or accompanying certificate for particular works of art; - increased cooperation between police forces and legal authorities in the field of the identification of stolen or unlawfully exported cultural goods. On a more general note, the Committee gives its backing to all endeavours to safeguard the immense heritage of cultural goods in the EU; these cultural goods are an integral part of Europe's history and its different cultures.