



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 23 November 2011**

**16324/11**

**CULT 94**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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from: the Presidency  
to: Council  
Subject: Draft Council Decision on the practical and procedural arrangements for the appointment by the Council of four members of the European panel for the European Union action for the European Heritage Label  
- *Information from the Presidency*

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1. The decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label was adopted on 16 November 2011. The Decision was published<sup>1</sup> on 22 November and entered into force on 23 November.
2. The decision establishing the European Heritage Label provides in Article 8 for the setting up of a European panel of independent experts. The European panel will be responsible for selecting sites to be awarded the European Heritage Label and for their subsequent monitoring. The panel will consist of 13 experts, four of which are to be appointed by the Council for a three year period. With this in mind, the Council's preparatory bodies have prepared a draft Council decision setting out the practical and procedural arrangements according to which the Council would appoint experts to the panel.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 303, 22.11.2011, p. 1.

3. According to the draft Council decision, each Member State can propose one candidate which has a solid knowledge and experience in the fields related to the objectives of the European Heritage Label. In this regard, four categories of expertise are specified (European history and cultures; education and youth; cultural management, including the heritage dimension; and communication and tourism). Experts will be selected by means of a draw that will take place in the Cultural Affairs Committee. In order to ensure a balance of expertise, experts will be drawn from each of those four categories. The selection will be subsequently approved by the Council.
  
4. The text of the draft Council Decision on the practical and procedural arrangements for the appointment by the Council of four members of the European panel for the European Union action for the European Heritage Label can be found in document 16808/11. It is expected to be adopted at the EPSCO Council of 1 and 2 December 2011.
  
5. After the adoption and publication of the Council decision, the Council will be able to proceed with the appointment of the experts. Given the fact that the European panel will meet in March 2012, its first members should ideally be appointed by mid-February 2012.

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