



PRE-PROGRAMME FOR THE DISCUSSION FORUM ON THE MARITIME HERITAGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

- 1st SESSION:** Current trends. The situation of the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage.
- 2nd SESSION:** The role of Maritime Museums in the safeguard of Maritime Heritage.- Preservation of Maritime Heritage.- Research on Heritage.- Diffusion and sensitization campaigns.
- 3rd SESSION:** Action strategies for the safeguard and protection of Maritime Heritage.- Information networks.- Collaboration between associations and entities.
- 4th SESSION:** Establishment of a platform for a combined action in the Mediterranean.- Proposals of collaboration.- Establishment of an information network.- Goals and initiatives.



CONCLUSIONS OF THE I FORUM FOR DEBATE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME HERITAGE

The representatives of Maritime Museums who met last 9-10 June in Barcelona for the I Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage, after analyzing and debating the situation of the maritime heritage in the Mediterranean Basin, arrived at the following conclusions:

- 1 - Given the delicate situation of the Maritime Heritage throughout the entire geographic area covered by the Mediterranean, the need to establish immediate action regarding the preservation and safeguarding of this Heritage is evident.
- 2 - Permanent information exchange is necessary in order to carry out a successful preservation programme, as well as the creation of a stable communications network. It was agreed that any initiatives deemed appropriate in this respect will be taken.
- 3 - Periodic encounters of the various Maritime Museums of the Mediterranean must be held to discuss the specific problems of these museums and share initiatives that each museum might find individually. Also, a framework must be established for joint projects that may be designed with a view towards preserving our Mediterranean Maritime Heritage.
- 4 - Draw up a document addressing the Authorities taking part in the protection and management of the Maritime Heritage, in which they are requested to take the necessary steps to preserve, study and disseminate the Maritime Heritage of the Mediterranean Sea.
- 5 - Design a series of projects to be carried out jointly by the Maritime Museums of the Mediterranean Basin, in order to stimulate the study and dissemination of the Maritime Heritage and to serve as a means to consolidate a permanent structure that would allow us to achieve the goals that may be set.
- 6 - Notify the International Congress of Maritime Museums of the development and conclusions of the I Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage, and request that it be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee of this organisation, in order to glean the ICMM's support of the initiative taken by the Mediterranean's Maritime Museum and of the document drawn up during the Forum so that it may be transmitted to the various agencies and institutions that take part in the protection and management of the Maritime Heritage.

The representatives of the Maritime Museums of the Mediterranean, in meeting at the Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage, held on 9 and 10 June, 1994 in Barcelona, Spain, declare that:



1. The Maritime Heritage of the Mediterranean Sea is one of the biggest, oldest and best-structured. It includes testimonials, findings, material, figurative and ethnic culture of all of the countries that have fished in these waters, and it possesses almost three thousand years of history.

2. Contrary to what occurs in other areas of the world (Northwest Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea), this heritage is in grave danger of disappearing, which would wipe out one of the main components that has determined the cultures and civilisations of the Mediterranean Basin.

On the basis of these considerations, the participants in the Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage request:

1. From UNESCO:

a) That this issue be included for study in their work programmes.

b) That the survival and awareness of maritime culture be considered a diverse aspect, but linked to the environmental safeguarding of the Mediterranean Basin.

c) That a special edition of the magazine Museum be dedicated exclusively to the cultural maritime heritage of the Mediterranean Sea.

d) That a "Charter for the Conservation of the Maritime Heritage of the Mediterranean Sea" be defined, and that this charter serve as reference for legislation and the planning of initiatives by the EEC.

2. From the EEC Commission for Cultural Heritage:

a) That study and planning be conducted regarding knowledge of the Mediterranean as a unifying element for culture and exchange between peoples.

b) That directives be issued concerning the conservation of the cultural heritage of the Mediterranean.

3. From national governments:

a) That they declare that conservation of the maritime heritage cannot be requested solely to supranational organisations, but rather find support in legislation, oversight and intervention of each State.

b) That State-sponsored interdisciplinary programmes be promoted with the participation of all administrations, associations and maritime museums.



c) That governments and persons in charge of cultural aspects in the meridional and eastern rim of the Mediterranean be invited to collaborate with other States, since their heritage is less altered and more suitable for safeguarding the fundamental contributions of the Mahgreb, the Masrek, and the Turkish and Hebrew civilisations.

The museums that have taken part in the I Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage propose to accomplish the goals of safeguarding and diffusing our heritage through:

a) A project encompassing the itemisation of ex-votos in the Mediterranean area, establishing common criteria for their documentation and defining their current status.

b) A project for itemising existing "boat and ship portraits" in both public and private collections, for the purpose of creating a catalogue of naval painters of the Mediterranean.

c) A project itemising the types of traditional wooden vessels in the Mediterranean in order to make a census of recoverable vessels and for the knowledge of still-operating traditional shipyards.

d) International itinerant exhibitions whose fundamental theme should be the elements common to the various traditional Mediterranean cultures.

e) An informative publication directed at all museums, associations, entities and other institutions operating in the sector of maritime culture.

Barcelona, 10 June 1994

Signed by the participants of the I Forum for Debate on the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage.