



Cultural Heritage in Danger: Illicit excavations and trade

International conference on 11th/12th December 2014

Weltsaal, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

The Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (German Archaeological Institute) and the Deutscher Verband für Archäologie (German Association for Archeology) will host an international conference on 11–12th December 2014 dealing with the topic of unauthorized excavations and the traffic in cultural goods.

Unauthorized excavations and the traffic in cultural goods have become a serious continuing problem worldwide. The devastation of archeological sites threatens the cultural heritage of many countries. Due to illicit excavations many objects have already been lost to science and society. The trade in looted cultural objects is increasing and has now become the third largest market in illegal goods worldwide. Current legal instruments at national and international level are not sufficient to prevent the illicit traffic in antiquities permanently and systematically.

The conference will use selected case studies to emphasize the consequences of illicit excavations to the cultural heritage of the countries affected. It will also discuss the existing legal instruments as well as legal and civil society approaches to solving the problem of illicit excavations.

The conference is supported by the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the Federal Foreign Office.

Programme

11th December 2014

11.00–11.30: Welcome speeches

- Maria Böhmer, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office
- Monika Grütters, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

11.30–12.00: Welcome speeches

- Friederike Fless, President of Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Vice President of Deutscher Verband für Archäologie
- Hermann Parzinger, President of Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, President of Deutscher Verband für Archäologie

1. Protection against illicit excavations at national and international level

On the first day, the speakers will outline the consequences of illicit excavations to the cultural heritage of their countries in case studies. The speeches will make clear that in addition to specific national measures against illicit excavations considerable international support is needed.

12.00–13.00: Near and Middle East

- Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Syria
- Ahmed Kamil, Director General of science and excavations, State Administration Antiquities and Heritage, Iraq (solicited)
- Mamdouh Mohamed Gad EIDamaty, Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage, Egypt (solicited)

Introduction and Chair: Margarete van Ess, Director of Middle East Department, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

13.00–13.30: Africa

- Musa Oluwaseyi Hambolu, National Commission for Museums and Monuments Nigeria
- Solange L. Macamo, Deputy National Director for Culture, Ministry of Education and Culture, Mozambique (solicited)

Introduction and Chair: Peter Breunig, Institute for Archeological sciences, University of Frankfurt/Main

13.30–15.00: Break for lunch

15.00–15.30: Latin America

- Pedro F. Sánchez Nava, National Coordinator in Archaeology, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, INAH

Introduction and Chair: Robert Kugler, Attorney

15.30–16.30: South-East Europe

- Lina Mendoni, General Secretary for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education, Sports and Cultural Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
- Ira Kaliampetsos, Hellenic Society for Law and Archaeology

Introduction and Chair: Katharina Cramer-Hadjidimos, Department for international cooperation at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

16.30–17.00: Coffee/Tea break

17:00–18.00: Central Europe

- Jonathan Scheschkewitz, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege im Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart (State office for cultural heritage preservation at the regional council Stuttgart)
- Eckhard Laufer, Landeskriminalamt Hessen (State Criminal Police Office Hessen), Central Agency for Traffic and Crime Prevention, coordinator for cultural goods

Introduction and chair: Matthias Wemhoff, Director of Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, State Archaeologist for Berlin, Secretary of Deutscher Verband für Archäologie

20.00:

Evening Lecture

At the Rotunda of the Altes Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Neil Brodie, University of Glasgow, Scottish Center for Crime and Justice Research:
“Transnational Organised Crime and the Antiquities Trade”

12th December 2014

2. Law and Ethics

The panel “Law and Ethics” will discuss existing legal mechanisms against illicit trade which are effective and could hence serve as a model. The panel will also discuss how relevant and convincing ethical guidelines against illicit trade are.

Introduction and Chair: Markus Hilgert, Director of Vorderasiatisches Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

9.00–10.00: Law and Ethics I: Legal mechanisms

- Sophie-Charlotte Lenski, Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Media Law, Art and Culture Law, University of Konstanz
- Christian Manhart, UNESCO Representative to Nepal

10.00–11.00: Law and Ethics II: Self-regulation and Ethical Guidelines

- France Desmarais, Director of Programmes and Partnerships, ICOM Paris
- Andreas Scholl, Director of Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

11.00–11.30: Coffee/Tea break

3. Measures against illicit traffic in cultural artifacts

The panel “Measures against illicit traffic in cultural artifacts” will present several documentation systems and databases and discusses their efficiency regarding the prevention of illicit trade. Furthermore the panel will discuss options for developing forceful international tools for preventing illicit trade on one hand and on the other hand options for raising the civil awareness of the problem.

Introduction and chair: Christina Haak, Deputy Director General, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

11.30–12.30: Measures against illicit traffic I: Documentation and Databases

- Reinhard Förtsch, Director of IT-Department, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut
- Françoise Bortolotti, Interpol General Secretariat (Lyon, France), Sub-Directorate “Drugs and Organized Crime”, Works of Art Unit

12.30–14.00: Break for lunch

14.00–15.00: Measures against illicit traffic II: Awareness-Raising

- Michael Müller-Karpe, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Archaeological research institute, Mainz
- Silvelie Karfeld, Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office), SO 36–24 Art and cultural heritage crime
- Stephan Seidlmayer, Director of Kairo Department, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

15.00–15.30: Coffee/Tea break

15:30–17.00:

4. Panel Discussion

Discussion on options for interdisciplinary cooperation across institutions regarding the illegal trade in cultural artefacts in the framework of the current legislation

Chair: Friederike Fless, President of Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Vice President of Deutscher Verband für Archäologie

Participants:

- Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, Secretary General, Kulturstiftung der Länder (Foundation for Culture of the Federal States)
- Jörg Zierke, President Bundeskriminalamt (Federal Criminal Police Office)
- Eckart Köhne, President German Museums Association, Director Badisches Landesmuseum
- Jürgen Kunow, Head of the Association of the State Archeologists in Germany
- Siegmund Ehrmann, Chairman of the Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs, German Bundestag
- Günther Schauerte, Vice President of Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

17.00: Closing speech Hermann Parzinger, President of Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, President of Deutscher Verband für Archäologie

Conference language: German, simultaneous translation to and from English is available.

Conference Fee: 30 Euro

Registration is valid only upon payment of conference fee.

Conference fee cannot be refunded.

Bank account: Deutscher Verband für Archäologie IBAN DE07 1004 0000 0720 7061 01
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Registration required via: spk.tagungsbuero@gmail.com

Deadline of registration: 24th November 2014

Upon receipt of the conference fee, you will receive a confirmation of registration by email.