

Conference on the illegal trafficking of cultural goods
Wednesday 23 May 2018, 16.30-18.30
European Parliament - A3F383

Sabine Verheyen MEP and Arndt Kohn MEP invite you to a Conference on the Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Goods, taking place on 23 May at 16:30 in the European Parliament, Room A3F383.

Related to the currently discussed proposal for a regulation on the import of cultural goods, the conference will bring together experts from cultural institutions, academia, law enforcement authorities and customs.

Antiquities and valuable works of art from impoverished or war-torn countries and regions are often illegally acquired, sold and imported into the European Union. In addition to damaging or destroying the archaeological sites and the artefacts themselves, illicit trade in looted cultural goods has also been identified as a source of income for terrorists and organised crime groups. Currently, with the exception of two specific measures for Iraq and Syria, there is no EU legislation covering the import of cultural goods from third countries entering the EU. The national legislation in this area introduced by some Member States are divergent. Therefore, an EU-level approach would ensure that imports of cultural goods are subject to uniform controls along all the EU external borders.

The legislative proposal, as a follow-up to other EU initiatives aimed at strengthening the fight against terrorism financing, intends to prevent the import and storage in the EU of cultural goods that have been removed from a third country illegally, and thereby to combat trafficking in cultural goods, deprive terrorists of a source of income, and protect cultural heritage.

AGENDA

16.30

Welcome & introduction by co-hosts Sabine Verheyen MEP and Arndt Kohn MEP

17.00

**Introductory remarks by Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs,
Taxation and Customs**

17.15

**Debate on the fight against illegal trafficking of cultural goods and on the proposal for a
regulation on the import of cultural goods**

Panelists:

Edouard Planche, UNESCO
Marina Schneider, UNIDROIT
Mariya Polner and Michelle Medina, World Customs Organisation

18.00

Q&A and concluding remarks

We hope you can join us for a lively debate!

Please send a confirmation to sabine.verheyen@ep.europa.eu

Best regards,

Sabine Verheyen



Arndt Kohn

