

DELPHI INITIATIVE

All participants gathered in the Delphi European Culture Centre on 13 May 2006, at the occasion of the ceremony of awarding the Certification « Major Cultural Route » by the Council of Europe to the Routes of the Olive Tree, and

In the framework of the Forum on European cultural routes as a tool for intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, cultural tourism and European integration, organised by the Hellenic Ministry for Culture and the Messinia Chamber of Commerce, Greece, and

On the occasion of the proclamation by the Greek Government of the year 2006 as Year of the Olive Tree,

Representatives coming from Council of Europe's members States, project coordinators working on cultural routes, NGOs, associations, representatives from the private sector cooperating with cultural routes and media's representatives ;

Agreed to appeal to the Council of Europe for the establishment of a platform aiming at creating synergies between the actors of cultural routes : Council of Europe's member States, Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, public and private financial institutions, other competent and interested international organisations as well as civil society with the objectives of :

- Facilitate the dialogue and the partnership between all the actors and the sharing of resources
- Invest in European cultural routes, especially in the Mediterranean area and in South-Eastern Europe
- Consider all the appropriate means to gather and coordinate the actors in the field of a quality cultural tourism
- Favour a sustainable and balanced development, taking into account the heritage and the values it represents for the society
- Make live the cultural routes as a tool for intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, good neighbourliness and mutual understanding

All these representatives invite :

- The Council of Europe to give a favourable following to the establishment of this platform (Delphi platform), in cooperation with the European Institute of Cultural Routes (Luxembourg)
- Other European Culture Centres, as the Delphi European Culture Centre, to contribute to this initiative, and
- Other European and International competent Authorities to cooperate with the Council of Europe to enlarge and to deepen the programme and the projects of cultural routes

The participants are very pleased about the organisation of the exhibition "In Praise of the Olive" organised by the Research Centre for Hellenic folklore of the Athens Academy and thank the organisers of this meeting, as well as the city of Delphi and the prefecture of Phokis for their warm hospitality.

Delphi, 13 May 2006