



Ever wondered how

the *European Union*

safeguards its

*Cultural*  
*Treasures* ?



# 1985

Council of Europe Convention  
for the *Protection of the  
Architectural Heritage of Europe*

## Establishing Cultural Cooperation

A pioneer in fostering cooperation among EU member states to ensure the conservation of our shared cultural legacy. This international agreement unites countries to ensure the preservation of Europe's stunning architectural tapestry.

# 1992

Council of Europe Convention  
for the *Protection of the  
Archaeological Heritage of  
Europe*

## Protecting our Past

Beneath our feet lie hidden stories  
waiting to be unearthed.

This Convention ensures the protection  
of archaeological sites, preserving the  
clues that connect us to ancient  
civilizations.

# 2009

Council of Europe Regulation on the  
*Export of Cultural Goods*

## Export safeguards

In the age of globalization, this regulation steps in as a guardian of Europe's cultural wealth. It carefully monitors and regulates the export of cultural goods, preventing the illicit trade that could strip nations of their heritage. It's a pledge to keep our shared history intact and within its rightful borders.

# 2014

European Parliament and Council of Europe Directive on the *Return of cultural property*

## Bringing Treasures Home

Ever heard of the 6-month rule? Among its various provisions, this directive establishes the terms for the verification and return of cultural goods. Upon receiving notification of the discovery of an item, a country has a period of 6 months to ascertain whether the cultural property found in another EU country constitutes national heritage.

# 2017

Council of Europe Convention on  
*Offences relating to Cultural  
Property*

## Defenders of Heritage

The Convention signed in Nicosia is a shield against those who seek to exploit and harm our cultural heritage. It criminalizes offenses related to cultural property, sending a powerful message that Europe stands united against any attempts to tarnish or diminish the treasures that define its identity.

# 2019

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the *Introduction and the import of cultural goods*

## Protecting against imports

The newest guardian in our arsenal: this Regulation monitors the introduction and import of cultural goods. By doing so, it prevents the entry of illicitly obtained artifacts into the European market, reinforcing the commitment to ethical acquisition and trade.