

Multimedia Exhibition
THE HERITAGE OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE



REGIONAL FORUM
CULTURAL CORRIDORS OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE
COMMON PAST AND SHARED HERITAGE – A KEY TO FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

ADDRESS BY H.E. GEORGI PARVANOV,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

Distinguished Colleagues,
Director General of UNESCO,
Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the successful finish of our forum in Varna this morning with the adoption of the Declaration for *identifying, preserving, sustainably using and promoting cultural corridors of South East Europe*, the opening of this exhibition can be considered its natural continuation and the first step to the implementation of the undertaken in the Declaration commitments.

I believe there is no better way, than the one here, for a complete and in the same time highly professional presentation of the unique cultural heritage of South East Europe. Despite of the limited space, due to the modern technologies and the Internet, the exhibition provides profound information for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the countries from the region, and the sites at risk have not been missed. This is extremely important for our region, where ethnic and religious conflicts in the last years of the previous century have seriously endangered sites of high cultural and historical value.

Together with us, the participants of this forum, the citizens of Varna will have the privilege and the pleasure to get acquainted with the rich content of this exhibition in the next ten days. We have already discussed with our minister of culture and tourism, the possibility to provide the same chance to citizens of other big Bulgarian cities, and especially in those, where museums, schools and universities are concentrated.

I would like to take advantage of the presence of my colleagues, the Director General of UNESCO and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to call to you to make it possible, so that this exhibition could be seen in other countries of South East Europe as well. And why not in the rest of Europe! This is the fastest and best arranged way to present the grand wealth of cultural heritage, that has been preserved at our lands, first to our citizens and then to the citizens of entire Europe.

I announce the exhibition “The Heritage of South East Europe” opened and I wish it becomes our most direct message to the citizens of all countries from Europe and the world, in which we say that our rich cultural heritage makes South East Europe one of the cradles of the European and world civilization.

Good luck!