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SYMPOSIUM DEDICATED TO CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANISM

Application of the latest scientific-research methods is a priority while creating all new strategies related to the research, evaluation, preservation and affirmation of both material as well as the immaterial cultural heritage, but also contemporary cultural creativity in Montenegro. We have especially emphasized the balance of use of contemporary scientific-technological achievements and all the rest that belongs to the field of peoples' experience, more precisely — experts in different fields of culture and science. That sort of harmony, where the latest technological instruments and methods are used simultaneously with the human knowledge and intuition provides the most objective results in all contemporary research in the fields of culture.

With the appreciation of strategic goals of Montenegro on its way to the Euro-Atlantic integrations, I hereby express a special pleasure that Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is the partner and the host of this Symposium dedicated to culture, technology and humanism, done in cooperation with the Euro Mediterranean Academies Network — EMAN.

The darkness of this Symposium belongs to that thematic corpus that has been starting many wide disputes in intellectual circles for quite a while already, due to the fact that quicker progress of the present has set numerous new challenges to the contemporary men and his position in every day changes that are brought by the scientific and technological development. These disputes must be directed to finding those models in which the science and technology development will not endanger the middle place of a man in the society, as only that way the possibility of abuse of science and all the consequences that those events may cause can be cancelled in the further civilization development.

Historical development of Montenegro took action in the area where the big civilizations had left their traces which allows us tracking all those changes that occurred in the lives of people from the ancient period until the contemporary age. Our geography that belongs to the geography of the old world is a significant starting point in detecting those changes that were caused by civilization jumps. In that context the moment when the sovereign state Montenegro got to border the Adriatic Sea coastline, that happened exactly in these areas, which made its continental limits stopped being a stumbling factor in the development of Montenegrin society and that's when it stopped being a "military camp in a stone sea", as was defined by those that advocated its expand in 19th century.

Being aware of diversity in cultural tradition and contemporary cultural-artistic expression of Mediterranean countries, we must also say that numerous material and immaterial sources point to permeation and co-living of peoples in these areas over several decades. A cultural-historical map of Mediterranean area floods with evidence on interaction of different cultures and civilizations, preservation of uniqueness and universal value of tradition of states and peoples on this area today.

It is completely natural that the city of Bar is chosen for the place of holding this scientific meeting of Mediterranean countries, bearing in mind it's rich and diverse cultural heritage, as well as the fact that a several centuries-long tendency of Montenegro to border the Adriatic sea came true in the area of this city. Contemporary Bar, as a contemporary port city, inherits traces of urban development from prehistoric, Illyrian, Greek, roman age, as well as Slovenian, Byzantium, Venetian and Turkish culture. City that stands as an evidence on state-building tradition of Montenegro, former Duklja, its ruler prince Jovan Vladimir, unique historical Chronicle of the priest Dukljanin, heritage of the Balshics noble family, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bar and other religious communities. The area is also famous for the oldest olive tree in Mirovica, approximately 2000 years old, but also for its centuries-long tradition of Cult of Saint Vladimir that is immaterial property significant for the whole nation.

Contemporary scientific and technological development opened new possibilities in preservation, protection and evaluation of our Mediterranean cultural heritage. In that sense, I would like to emphasize the importance of cooperation of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts with partners from Mediterranean countries, more precisely with the representatives of scientific thoughts of Southeastern Europe, Western and Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa.

With cooperation in science and scientific and research projects not only experience and practice exchange is achieved, but also the use of special scientific resources on the area of Mediterranean, Europe and even wider. With regard to new challenges, the Ministry of Culture has created the Information on human resources capacities in institutions and bodies that deal with protection and preservation of cultural heritage. That document was adopted by the Government of Montenegro, and it contains, among others, scientific resources in the mentioned subjects. Being aware of poor human resources scientific potential in the fields of cultural heritage, we have planned for the upcoming period activities on unification and improvement of scientific capacities in this field, in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts.

In my opinion, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, as an institution of special national and state interest, represents a decent partner in future scientific and research projects and development of scientific thought in Montenegro, even wider. I would like to emphasize that the Academy unifies scientific potentials, organizes, encourages and develops scientific, artistic and cultural creativity, affirms Montenegrin spiritual, national and state tradition from Duklja to contemporary Montenegro and with its actions, it contributes to total progress of the state of Montenegro. Having in mind all the mentioned, the Academy is the only institution that can provide methodologically adequate and scientifically based access to studying our Mediterranean heritage, but also provide guidelines for new positioning of Montenegro as a Mediterranean country.

Without any doubt, this Symposium shall open many subjects from the fields of culture communications, humanism and human rights exercising, technological development influence on modern society, but also preservation of peculiarities of civilizations for the wellbeing of future generations on the area of Mediterranean.