

**Communiqué from the 19th Meeting of the Ministers for Culture
of the Visegrad Group Countries
Warsaw, 28-29 May 2009**

A meeting of the Ministers for Culture of the Visegrad Group Countries took place on 29th May 2009 in Warsaw, in the Palace on the Isle in the Royal Łazienki Park.

The meeting of the Ministers for Culture was preceded by a working meeting of ministerial experts, which had taken place on 28th May this year in Warsaw. In preparation for the Experts' Report, for the next day Meeting of the Ministers for Culture the subjects below were discussed:

1. Progress in the implementation of cultural programmes achieved since the 18th Meeting of the Culture Ministers of the Visegrad Group Countries in Olomouc in 2008.
2. Possibilities of deepening and strengthening cultural cooperation within the Visegrad Group through completed, implemented and new projects.
3. Directions of cooperation in the V4+ format.
4. Challenges of financing joint cultural projects implemented by partners from the Visegrad countries.
5. Achievements of the International Visegrad Fund.
6. Procedure for awarding the International Visegrad Prize for 2008.
7. Joint promotional activities for V4 cultural programmes and projects.

The following commitments were made in the Meeting of the Ministers:

1. The Ministers accepted the Experts' Report and expressed their satisfaction with the progress in implementation of the individual programmes.
2. The Ministers highly appreciated the implementation of the *Visegrad Anthology* projects as a symbol of the close V4 cultural cooperation and expressed the belief that as successful undertaking should be continued. Following the success of the original five language edition as well as the Arabic-English edition they declared their support for the subsequent project of V4+ and MERCOSUR formats.
3. The Ministers expressed their acknowledgement of the 2nd *Colloquium of Library-Information employees from the V4 countries*, which had taken place in 2008 in Brno, and voiced their support for organizing the 3rd Colloquium in Poland, in 2010.
4. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the activities of the working group on cultural heritage in the V4 countries and for their new proposals.
5. The Ministers welcomed the new project ideas such as *Visegrad Days* and *Research Project on Political Theatre in Visegrad Countries*.

6. The Ministers expressed their support for the idea of cooperation in the V4+format, in particular for projects under the Eastern Partnership.
7. The Ministers discussed several aspects related to the world economic crisis influencing the culture, including the condition of entities operating in the area of culture, significance of EU funds for the development of cultural infrastructure and implementation of cultural programmes.
8. The Ministers accepted the information on realization of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the European Union Council in the area of culture. They expressed their hope for deepening the cooperation on the utilization of EU funds in the culture sector.
9. The Ministers welcomed with satisfaction the Hungarian Presidency's proposal for organizing in the end of 2009 a conference on utilization of structural funds in cultural and educational programmes.
10. The Ministers acknowledged the information on the programmes and achievements of the International Visegrad Fund.
11. The Ministers welcomed the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency, including programmes dedicated to celebrations of the anniversaries of the great composers Ferenc Erkel and Frederic Chopin.
12. The Ministers accepted the Hungarian candidate and awarded the International Visegrad Prize for 2008 to Mr. György Spiró - outstanding writer, poet, historian of literature and translator.

The parties agreed that the next meeting of the Ministers for Culture of the Visegrad Group Countries will take place in Hungary, in February, 2010.

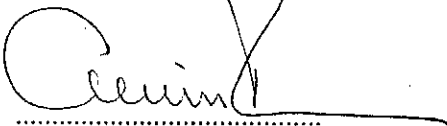
Signed in Warsaw, on 29 May 2009.



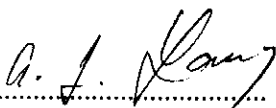
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Bogdan ZBROJEWSKI
Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland



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Petra SMOLIKOVÁ
Deputy Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic



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Ferenc CSÁK
State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary



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Augustín Jozef LANG
State Secretary, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic