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**RECOMMENDATION AND CONVENTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
WITH REFERENCE TO SERBIA'S TWO DECADE PARTICIPATION IN THE
PURPOSE OF PRESERVING NATIONAL CULTURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Summary: The paper presents the historical origin and development of the Council of Europe, a post-war pan-European institution with the aim of establishing closer social and political ties between the countries of Europe. Therefore, the main goal of this organization is to achieve and maintain those ideas that represent their common heritage as well as to accelerate economic and social development. The purpose of this paper is to point out those extremely important issues that are of common interest to the member states, which implies the conclusion of international agreements and joint action to strengthen cooperation in the field of social and economic development culture, science, solving legal issues, as well as maintaining and further improvement of human rights and basic freedoms. After a brief short history, the most important conventions and institutions of the Council of Europe, especially judicial bodies, in the broadest sense are pointed out. Considering that one of its main principles is to achieve the greatest possible unity of member states, with the aim of preserving and improving ideals and principles based on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the idea of achieving and establishing a common cultural heritage of CoE members. The guiding idea was to emphasize the value and potential of cultural heritage as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a continuously developing society. A special review was also made of Serbia's participation in this extremely important institution of the European continent, which in the expansion of ever-increasing European integration should not be confused with the bodies and institutions of the European union. The emphasis was on the cultural cooperation between Serbia and the member states in terms of cultural heritage preservation.

Keywords: Council of Europe, Serbia, culture, cultural heritage, European Court of Human Rights, ombudsman, convention, resolution

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