

# Press Release

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## Cultural tourism: Is it threatening national heritage?

Strasbourg, 27.09.2006 – The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR), in cooperation with the City of Dubrovnik (Croatia), are organising, on 28 and 29 September, an international symposium on "Cultural tourism: Economic Benefit or Loss of Identity?".

This theme was chosen to promote responsible tourism which would not represent a threat to unique cultural heritage of cities such as Dubrovnik, trying to respond to a growing popular demand.

The questions in the centre of the debate will be economic and social benefits derived from cultural tourism, as well as ways of investing in national heritage and generating income without losing identity and diversity. In the light of several case studies, the participants will be asked to adopt some basic principles aimed at promoting sustainable management of both man-made and natural heritage.

The symposium will be opened on Thursday 28 September at Fort Revelin at 9.30 am by EAHTR President Louis Roppe, Mayor of Dubrovnik and First Vice-President of the Congress Dubravka Suica, Mayor of Innsbruck and President of the Congress Culture and Education Committee Hilde Zach, and State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry of Culture Jadran Antolovic. On Friday 29 September at 2 pm, the participants will adopt the conclusions and Final Declaration, presented by EAHTR Secretary General Brian Smith. The symposium is open to the press.

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