

The Cultural Heritage of a Nation

Includes, according to the The Hague Convention:

- Immovable historical monuments, archaeological sites and grouped buildings
- Works of fine arts and crafts of all epochs which are, as a rule, preserved in museums
- Creations and works of poets, philosophers, composers and scientists collected by libraries
- Written tradition, hand-drawn maps and plans kept in archives
- Museums, archives, libraries, storage sites for movable cultural assets and historical monument sites.

It is the duty of those taking responsibility today to protect these cultural assets in such a way that future generations can use them as a source of knowledge even in the distant future.

*Bust of
Charlemagne,
Cathedral
Treasure,
Aix-la-Chapelle*



Microfilms as Long-Term Storage Medium

The volume of all archival documents and movable cultural assets in Germany is so large that in hazard situations transport to the few existing **storage sites** is only possible to a limited extent. Thus, additional measures are necessary to ensure safety of irreplaceable and unique assets.

Since 1961, the Federal Government has therefore used micro-filming ("back-up filming") as a technically simple and economical possibility for the long-term preservation of archives and cultural assets worthy of protection for future generations (at least as films).

500 Years...

...without any loss of information – this is the storage life of micro-films according to scientific knowledge.

At 14 Federal and Länder back-up filming centres, films are compiled on large film rolls and stored in special stainless-steel containers. These containers are stored at the **Central Storage Site of the Federal Republic of Germany** which has been endowed with the triple protection sign of the The Hague Convention.



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Federal Office
of Civil Protection and
Disaster Assistance



Protection of
Cultural Assets in the
Event of Armed Conflict



Performance Potentials of Civil Protection

Performance Potentials of Civil Protection

In response to new threats such as 11 September 2001 and the flood catastrophe of 2002, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) was established on 1 May 2004.

With this Office, the Federal Republic of Germany has a central organisation element for preventive security.

The interdisciplinary approach of this office includes all services of preventive security and links them up to an efficient protection system for the population and its basic survival needs.

Therefore the BBK is not only a technical authority of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) but also gives competent advice and support to the other Federal and Land authorities to help them with the completion of their tasks.

Hence there is now **one** central authority

- To fulfil the tasks of the Federal Government with regard to civil protection and the co-ordination of international co-operation
- To prepare national and area risk analyses, hazard cadastres and emergency planning as well as to co-ordinate civil-military-police co-operation
- To provide conceptual planning and interdisciplinary co-ordination of the protection of critical infrastructures
- To ensure national information, communication and resource management in case of damage
- To co-ordinate technical-scientific research relating to civil protection as well as to the protection of the population against weapons of mass destruction
- To ensure threat-adequate civil protection training of executives at high and highest administrative levels
- To provide national co-ordination of the European integration process in the field of preventive security
- To provide disaster medicine
- To procuring equipment for civil protection.

A special subject area:
Measures for the protection of cultural assets in armed conflicts



Trier Cathedral, exterior view

The Hague Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural Assets in Armed Conflicts

In accomplishment of its mission to promote cultural co-operation between nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) organised a conference in The Hague in May 1954 with the aim to prepare a cultural protection convention. The result of this conference was the

The Hague Convention Concerning the Protection of Cultural Assets in Armed Conflicts

which was signed on 14 May 1954 by the majority of the 56 member states, including the Federal Republic of Germany.

Meanwhile, more than 100 states have joined the Convention.

The Federal Republic of Germany ratified this Convention by law of 11 April 1967.



Anthropologic National Collection, Munich

Goethe and Schiller in Weimar

Cultural assets

are, according to this Convention and irrespective of their origin or ownership:

Immovable cultural assets that have to be protected on site

Movable cultural assets that must be moved to safe storage areas to be protected from hazard situations

Buildings for the preservation of cultural assets, e.g. museums, libraries, archives, storage areas.



Vessel for holy water, Cathedral Treasure, Aix-la-Chapelle

Measures According to the The Hague Convention

In Germany, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) is in charge of the implementation of measures according to the The Hague Convention for the protection of cultural assets in armed conflicts.

These measures comprise:

- Circulation of the text of the Convention
- Back-up recording on film of Federal Government and Laender archival documents
- Back-up recording on film of unique library documents
- Identification of immovable cultural assets
- Photogrammetric registration of identified cultural assets
- Building of storage areas for movable cultural assets
- Training of management and executive personnel from museums, archives, libraries etc. at the Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning and Civil Protection



World cultural heritage, the little hut of Völklingen



Identification of Cultural Assets

Immovable cultural assets that are protected under the Convention – buildings, historical and industrial monuments, ensembles, parks – are registered at the BBK in a central file and all marked in the same ultramarine and white colour.

The Triple Sign

Identifies cultural assets under special protection. In Germany, it is only assigned once and identifies the Central Storage Site of the Federal Republic of Germany in Oberried near Freiburg/Breisgau.

