



Message to Secretariat of the 2003 Convention from the Ministry of Culture of the

4 December 2017

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Regarding the Draft-decision for the joint nomination file Spring celebrations, Hidrellez, between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, concretely regarding the remarks for criterion R.5, on behalf of Macedonian delegation I would like to provide to the Committee the following explanations on the manner of updating ICH inventories in Macedonia with the involvement of concerned communities:

- 1) The digital character of the Inventory of the Cultural Heritage has by definition and intrinsically the main purpose to assure permanent updates and access for communities and all stakeholders involved in this process in real time and defining their activities on the protection of this invaluable cultural heritage;
- 2) To this purpose, from January 2017 until September 2017 the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, with all its staff and physical materials and documents, was relocated on a different address which also provoked a temporary pause of the maintaining of the Digital Inventory of Cultural Heritage. Additionally, the server of the Digital Inventory of Cultural Heritage (www.niskn.gov.mk) has been recently the subject of a full relocation and has been technically improved with the important support of the experts within the Department for Registration, Digitization, Archaeological Land Registry and Information Technology (further named: the Department) within the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, who are working permanently to process and upload updates on Spring celebrations, Hidrellez,
- 3) Communities and individuals involved in the nomination process send regularly to the Department hard copy presentations of their activities dedicated to the safeguarding of the element. Several hundred units have been registered so far, serving as material for updating the Digital Inventory;
- 4) The Digital Inventory of Cultural Heritage is speaking itself and is proving all these aspects once it is accessed, this is why the link included in the Nomination form ICH-02, p. 20, item 5 is sufficient because it leads to full information on permanent updating and community involvement in this ongoing process;
- 5) Further details and explanations are available in the enclosed excerpt of the Register of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Macedonia (updated on 8 November, 2017), prepared by the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, within the Ministry of Culture which we submitted to the Committee.

We are confident that the members of the Committee will take into consideration the useful and natural explanations presented by our side to the present session, which strongly support, in our opinion, the Decision of inscription of the element Spring celebrations, Hidrellez on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.