



STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN PRISTINA

The continuing vandalism to the church of St. Andrew in Podujevo is strongly condemned by the Council of Europe. The Council fully supports the work of the Reconstruction Implementation Commission (RIC) in the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Serbian Orthodox religious sites in Kosovo and urges all communities to respect the work of the RIC which is promoting the process of capacity building between the many cultural institutions.

Whether a monument is modern or ancient, a religious site or a community space, it is a unique part of Cultural Heritage of Kosovo. The Council of Europe urges the local police and municipalities to prepare and implement a sustainable strategy which will ensure the future protection of all cultural sites for the benefit of Kosovo.

19th May 2006