

PROJECT FOR A EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARY

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ARCHIVISTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Board of National Archivists in the European Union (EBNA)

Considering the initiative of six Heads of State or of Government (Germany, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy and Poland) who wrote to the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, on 28th April 2005, in order to put before him a proposal intended to create ‘a European Digital Library, that is to say concerted action to make our cultural heritage widely and systematically available on the world-wide information networks’,

Considering the position of the President of the European Commission who welcomes ‘ the initiative to unite the efforts, to combine the initiatives for the digitisation of the contents of European libraries and **archives** and for their exploitation in a network, thus forming a European Digital Library’,

Considering the favourable welcome received by this project at the European Council of Ministers of Culture on 14 November 2005

Considering the thinking carried out in different countries between public and private partners in order to examine the feasibility and ways of implementing such a project and to formulate propositions by the end of the year,

Considering the concern of EBNA to develop a strategy and common projects for digitisation, with a view to enabling the easiest possible access to the sources of European history and identity for the greatest number of public users,

Gives its support to this project for a European Digital Library, which is as essential for archives as for libraries. This project constitutes a precondition for the successful development of the European Archival Portal.

Is ready to examine practical ways to participate in this initiative,

Expresses the wish that the largest possible number of governments associate themselves with this project.