



Institut Culturel  
de Bretagne



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**BRETAGNE RÉUNIE**  
**Comité Local de NANTES**  
**12, place du Pilon**  
**F-44000 NANTES**  
**tel : 06 64 33 91 21**  
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Nantes June 6th 2009

**Object : Loire Valley(France)**

*Joined pieces : Annex 1 : promotional folder*

*Annex 2 : identity of associations*

Sir Director,

It is with the strongest indignation that the Breton association « *Reunited Brittany* » (Bretagne Réunie) and three other Breton ones, the « *Cultural Institute of Brittany* », « *Eurominority* » and « *The Breton League of Human Rights* », have just been aware of the folder entitled « **Castles of the Loire, Valley of the Kings, the Loire Valley** », a copy of which we join to this letter for information.

If we find perfectly judicious that your Committee choosed to classify in 2000, the French « *Loire Valley* » between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, into the World Heritage of Humanity, on the other hand we are annoyed to find the Castle of Dukes de Bretagne of Nantes in this folder ! Indeed, because it is Breton and in Brittany, although on the Armorican Loire, the last residence of the last Dukes of Brittany has obviously not its place in the Valley of the Kings, French kings who so often fought the Bretons, until the annexation of the Duchy of Brittany by the Realm of France in 1532.

Without wanting to tell you the history of Brittany, neither praise to you our cultures, our dances, musics and traditions always alive, we wish to attract your attention on the fact that since June 30th 1941, by a decree n°2727, Nantes' country (the department of Loire-Inférieure at that time, of Loire-Atlantique nowadays) was administratively removed from the rest of Brittany by a fascist regime, without plebiscite. It is, regrettably, the only decree of this dark period of the history which is still effective.

Decades of crawling "débretonnisation" have followed since in Loire-Atlantique. From which the idea to integrate the castle of Dukes of Brittany into the Loire Valley with the Castles of the Loire of the Realm of France, under the pretext that Nantes would benefit

by the economic effects due to the classification in the World Heritage of Humanity.

Whereas the castle of Dukes de Bretagne has already paid a heavy toll to this policy, because in 2006 its museum of Breton traditional art was eliminated. Its museum of Salorges, dedicated to the maritime life of Nantes, underwent the same spell. The history of the duchy and Dukes of Brittany was voluntarily censored, and their castle, which was the seat of an important European court, was transformed into a municipal museum.

In quite a different domain, that of the vineyard: already wines of High-Brittany, those of the Loire-Atlantique have been given the name of "wines of the Val de Loire". Now, by the same subterfuge, the whole Breton heritage of the Nantes country is bound to disappear in the same wrong naming! This, without your approval and at the risk of blurring the image of real classified "Val de Loire" area.

So, considering these diversions and pernicious abuse which touch, on one hand, your classification of "Val de Loire" and on the other hand, the historic territory of Brittany, we allow to remind you that according to the decision 31 Com 5.2, taken by the Committee during the 31th session in Christchurch, there is a large subject to start a procedure of follow-up strengthened as regarding the geography of classification of "Val de Loire" in the World Heritage of the Humanity.

We thank you for confirming us that you will do what is necessary, so that Val de Loire finds his true historical limits and that the « Marches of Brittany », or its borders, are protected from an exaggerated revisionism towards history.

We thank you for the attention which you will pay to our request and for the care you will take in its examination.

Please, Sir Director, receive our best Breton kind regards.

The president of Reunited Brittany, Jean-Yves Bourriau  
The secretary of the Local Committee of Nantes, Paul Loret

## **Annex 2: IDENTITY OF THE BRETON ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Reunited Brittany**

BP 49032 F-44090 Nantes / Naoned

Tél. : 33 (0)6 32 01 86 07

Web site: <http://www.bretagne-reunie.org>

E-mail: [contact@cuab.org](mailto:contact@cuab.org)

Federates 48 cultural associations, firms, actors of the civil society, and individual members (approximately 800). 5,000 elected representatives signed the proposed Charter of reunification of Brittany.

Social purpose: the recognition, as a territorial community, of the Brittany region in its whole, formed with the current departments of Côtes-d'Armor, Finistère, Ille-et-Vilaine, Loire-Atlantique and Morbihan. (Art 1 of the statuses).

### **Cultural Institute of Brittany - *Skol-Uhel ArVro* \***

6 rue Porte Poterne / 6 straed an Nor Bostern

F-56000 Vannes / Gwened

Tel/Fax: 33 (0)2 97 68 31 10

Web site: <http://www.institutcultureldebretagne.com>

E-mail: [icb.suav@wanadoo.fr](mailto:icb.suav@wanadoo.fr)

Includes 500 members among whom 78 associations, the whole representing approximately 12,000 members.

Social purpose: develop and spread the Breton culture in its widest and most diversified meaning.

### **Eurominority**

6 straed / rue François Menez

29000 Kemper / Quimper - Breizh / Brittany

Tel : +33 (0)2 98 90 51 67

Web site: <http://www.eurominority.eu/version/eng/>

E-mail: [bodlore@eurominority.eu](mailto:bodlore@eurominority.eu)

Eurominority - Organization for the European Minorities, is an association of promotion of Nations without State and national minorities in Europe. Its objective is the broadcasting of informations on minorities by the mean of searches made by correspondents' network in Europe.

Eurominority provides a database about 93 minorities in Europe and has published, since its creation, more than 300 articles on situations of these.

Social purpose: this association searches about minorities, peoples, ethnic groups and specific territories in Europe, develops its database, spreads information and any actions allowing the promotion of these entities. (Statuses Art 2).

### **Breton collective for the Democracy and the human rights - *Galv Karaez or Galv ar Vretonned evit an democatelezh***

Kervouziern Kreiz F-29510 Landudal

Tel./Fax: 33 (0)2 98 57 41 98

Web site: <http://www.collectifbreton.eu>

E-mail: [anj.gaet@gmail.com](mailto:anj.gaet@gmail.com)

Also named : Carhaix's Appeal (a town in Center Brittany). Includes physical persons: 250 members. Created on October 28th, 1999 in Carhaix, to the initiative of a group of citizens of the whole Brittany, the Breton Collective, proposes that all those who make live current Brittany join their appeal. By respecting the fundamental principles of the democracy, the Rights of man and the attachment in the variety and the cultural expression of all the peoples. Thus, all persons whose acts or comments concern racism and who do not accept cultural differences are not concerned by this appeal. We are not a political party. Our association works in cultural, historic, political, administrative fields. Reminder (from statuses) of the 5 points highlighted in Oct. 1999, still of current events and our base without bypass of a true democratization of the Breton society, namely: **1** - Make close correspondence between the French Constitution and the European and International standards, regarding human rights in Brittany; **2**. A regional public status for Diwan (teaching of Breton by dumping) and for the Breton language; its teaching correctly assured in three sectors Div Yezh (public), Dihun (private), Diwan (associative), also for the gallo; **3**. The political and administrative reinstatement of Nantes, the former ducale capital, and of the Loire-Atlantique within Brittany; **4**. A real regional power with skills and financial means to the equal of the other European regions; **5**. Respectful economic measures of the human beings and the environment in front of the globalization of markets.

#### **All the litigant associations are of French law**

*\* These moral persons, Cultural Institute (and Cultural Council) of Brittany, were recognized as legitimate expressions of the cultural personality of Brittany, in particular by the Cultural Charter of Brittany signed by the French State and the five Breton departments, Charter provided in 1978 and establishing them. The three other associations appeared after this date. Reunited Brittany in 1980, Eurominority in 1999, Carhaix's Appeal in 2000.*