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## **500 kHz - efforts for the conservation as a world heritage**

Since 1972 the UNESCO treaty for the Safeguarding of material Cultural Heritage exists and it is applied all over the world. But it was obvious that the intangible cultural heritage also was worthwhile to be protected. Only in 2003 an additional UNESCO Convention came into force with the aim for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In our opinion our efforts to somehow safeguard all that goes with the former manually operated maritime mobile radio distress system (500 kHz; SOS; Morse Code ...) falls under the objective of that new Convention. (If you are interested see Article 2 – Definitions; and especially in point two the domains d) and e).

It is therefore, we from the German maritime radio operators association “Seefunkkameradschaft e. V. Bremen” approached the German UNESCO Commission for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the answer we were informed that Germany is not yet member of that treaty and therefore is not in the position to submit proposals to UNESCO in this respect. Therefore we like to invite you fellow maritime radio operators from countries which are members to that treaty, to also approach your national UNESCO Commission. The list of member countries to that respective treaty is published on the web site of UNESCO under <http://portal.unesco.org> there select under *conventions*

At present you find more than hundred countries listed. Among those are for example: Argentina, Belgium, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

In our view it is high time to act on this matter because the World Radio Conference 2011 (WRC 2011) most probably will make decisions for the future use of 495-505 kHz.

73 Norbert and Rolf (04 Oct. 2008)