The 1992 Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Council of Europe 1992a), known as the Valletta Convention after the city in which it was signed, is a revision of the 1969 Convention with the same title (Council of Europe 1969). Following ratification by four Member States, it came into force on 25 May 1995. At the time of writing (June 2011), it has been ratified by 40 of the Member States of the Council of Europe (the States that have so far not ratified it are Austria, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, San Marino, and Spain). The Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community entered into force on 1 December 2009. As a consequence, as from that date, any reference to the European Economic Community shall be read as the European Union. 1969 Convention Explanatory Report Français Translations. Website Cultural Heritage. Preamble. Stressing that responsibility for the protection of the archaeological heritage should rest not only with the State directly concerned but with all European countries, the aim being to reduce the risk of deterioration and promote conservation by encouraging exchanges of experts and the comparison of experiences Recognising that while the moral responsibility for protecting the European archaeological heritage, the earliest source of European history, which is seriously threatened with destruction, rests in the first instance with the State directly concerned, it is also the concern of European States jointly; Considering that the first step towards protecting this heritage should be to apply the most stringent scientific methods to archaeological research or discoveries, in order to preserve their full historical significance and render impossible the irremediable loss of scientific information that The European Convention on the. Protection of the Archaeological. Heritage. PATRICKJ. In January 1992, 20 States signed the report advocated an approach based on European Convention on the Protection of the stringent controls over trade in antiquities in. Archaeological Heritage (Revised) which is order to remedy the then existing situation in intended to replace the original Convention of respect of clandestine excavation. Once this 1969. Signature indicates that States agree on was done, reasoned the Report, ownership. Work on the archaeological heritage is dealt with in Article 3. This emphasizes the principles of a scientific approach to such work. In particular, the use of nondestructive methods of investigation is stressed.