

III. OTHER PROVISIONS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORT

8703 *Law 10/2015, of 26 May, for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, establishes in its article 11.2, letter c), that the General State Administration, through the Ministry of Culture and Sport, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, is responsible for "the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage through the declaration of a representative manifestation of intangible cultural heritage". Article 12(1) of the above-mentioned.*

Law 10/2015, of 26 May, declares that the General State Administration will have the power to declare protection and adopt safeguarding measures with respect to intangible cultural heritage assets "when they exceed the territorial scope of an Autonomous Community and there is no legal instrument of cooperation between Autonomous Communities for the comprehensive protection of this asset", as well as "when the overall consideration of the asset subject to safeguarding requires for its specific understanding a unitary consideration of this shared tradition, beyond the own it may receive in one or several Autonomous Communities".

Section 12.4 regulates the procedure for the declaration of a representative manifestation of intangible cultural heritage, stating that it "shall be initiated ex officio by the Ministry of Culture and Sport, either on its own initiative, at the reasoned request of one or more Autonomous Communities, or at the reasoned request of a natural or legal person".

The interest in declaring the Spanish knot as a representative manifestation of intangible cultural heritage is justified by the fact that it represents a know-how which, associated with the material evidence of its production, the instruments and the architectural spaces inherent to it, brings together historical, intangible, technological and artistic values of Spain's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Within the millenary history of carpets and knot weaving, the single knot is a minority variant of knotting techniques that took root almost exclusively in the territories of the Iberian Peninsula, so that modern historiography came to call it the 'Spanish knot'. The survival in Spain of this indigenous expression of knotting took place through innumerable workshops throughout the country. From the mid-17th century onwards, however, the introduction of the Turkish knot in the country marked the beginning of a historical process of retraction of the Spanish workers. Towards the middle of the 20th century, there was a movement in Spain to revive the very ancient tradition of carpet weaving and the single knot looms were reborn.

From then on, the "Spanish-style" carpet shared the limelight with the French tradition in the cultured modes of decoration, and began to be manufactured in the large Madrid factories of the time. At the end of the 20th century, there was a fall in the demand for this type of carpet, which led to the chain of closures of most of the production centres.

As a result, in the second decade of the 21st century, only one manufacturer still produces Spanish knotted carpets: the Royal Tapestry Factory, founded in 1721 by Philip V to supply tapestries to the Spanish Crown, which from an early date also began to manufacture Spanish knotted carpets.

The declaration of this ancestral knowledge of unmistakably Iberian roots as a representative manifestation of intangible cultural heritage contributes decisively to its safeguarding. There are currently many threats to the future of the Spanish knot.

Since the end of the last century, a series of unfavourable circumstances have been developing which have seriously compromised the viability of the traditional activities related to the Spanish knot, such as the long execution time, the high degree of specialisation, the fact that it is a manual technique, the difficulty of making it viable and marketing it, the appearance of other competing products, changes in taste, etc.

The evolution of this negative situation has meant that, at present, this know-how has reached a critical situation, in which the risk of extinction seems certain and imminent. For this reason, the declaration of the Spanish knot as a representative manifestation of Spain's intangible cultural heritage should contribute to the safeguarding of this technique and the international dissemination of this knowledge that is still alive in our country. Therefore, considering all of the above and having informed the Spanish Historical Heritage Council, the Complutense University of Madrid and the University of Murcia, the Directorate General of Fine Arts, resolves: First.

To initiate proceedings for the declaration as a representative manifestation of the intangible cultural heritage of the Spanish knot, due to the existence of the circumstances foreseen in letters c) and d) of article 12.1 of Law 10/2015, of 26 May, for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Second. To provide, by virtue of Article 12.4, letter a), of Law 10/2015, of 26 May, for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as Article 83 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of the Public Administrations, the opening of a period of public information, so that all those with an interest in the matter may examine the file at the offices of the Sub directorate General for the Management and Coordination of Cultural Heritage of the Directorate General of Fine Arts of the Ministry of Culture and Sport (Plaza del Rey 1, Madrid), and in any case, those persons who request it by electronic means will be made available at the corresponding electronic headquarters, in order to present their arguments for a period of twenty days from the day following the publication of this Resolution in the "Official State Gazette". Third.

To process the corresponding file for the declaration of a representative manifestation of intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with the provisions of Law 10/2015, of 26 May. Fourth. Communicate the initiation to the General Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage for its preventive annotation.

Madrid, 23 May 2022 -The Director General of Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts, Isaac Sastre de Diego.

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