



## Foreword

The diversity and richness of the cultural and scientific heritage and resources of Europe is clearly one of its most important assets. Reflecting the ambition of the European Member States to have a Europe in the forefront of the development in the global information society, the cultural and scientific resources should accordingly be an important driver in this regard.

Therefore, digitisation of these resources is a very important task. And impressive amounts of initiatives have been taken already to digitise cultural and scientific resources for a mixture of educational, cultural, commercial, research and other purposes. In many Member States of the European Union, we see the development of projects, programmes and policies at all levels for digitisation of cultural and scientific content.

However, this development is in itself not enough if Europe is to fulfil its ambitions and potential for digitisation.

At the same time as the digitisation process develops in the Member States, we see a number of barriers and threats to the development at European level. These include a highly fragmented approach, duplication of efforts and investments, lack of access, intellectual property right problems and more.

Therefore, the Lund Principles, agreed to in an expert meeting in Lund on 4 April 2001, under the Swedish EU-Presidency, set out the course for increased coordination in the field of digitisation policies and programmes.

And subsequently, an Action Plan has been produced by Member State representatives to determine an appropriate step-by-step approach and reach concrete results.

The Danish Presidency of the European Union has been happy to contribute to the continuous and further development of the initiatives taken as a consequence of the Lund principles. Among other things, this was done when national representatives from the Member States convened in Copenhagen on 10 December 2002 to discuss and further develop their coordination efforts and initiatives.

At the same time, I find it important to thank the previous presidencies, the European Commission's Directorate General for the Information Society, and not least the many experts from the Member States who have together been so successful in taking this initiative forward.

And it is now my privilege as Danish Minister for Culture, representing the Danish Presidency, to introduce this report which sums up the many significant initiatives taken so far and points to challenges and possibilities for future development in the field.

Brian Mikkelsen  
Danish Minister for Culture  
January 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Mikkelsen', written over a light blue horizontal line.