

OUTSOURCING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES TO COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - THE DUTCH EXPERIENCE AND A GOVERNMENTAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE VALLETTA TREATY

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The *Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological heritage of Europe*, usually referred to as the **Valletta Treaty** or **Malta Convention**, was signed in 1992 but it took until 2007 before it was implemented into the Dutch Monuments law. In the meantime works were already executed according to the Malta Convention and some standards were set. Prior to the legal implementation also, the commercial market has developed. This year the implementation of the Treaty of Valletta Convention in the Netherlands is being evaluated.

In this presentation some of the issues that came out of this evaluation and have implication on the management of the underwater cultural heritage will be presented and discussed.