

Tillysburg, November 5th 2010

**Declaration
Budapest: Beksi Street**

Dear Dr. Tamási,

On occasion of the Advisory and Executive Committee Meeting of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), held in Dublin from October 27th to 29th 2010, the European National Committees came together for a Europe Group Meeting which served to assess special problems. The delegates discussed with deep concern the developments of the Beksi Street, which lies in the buffer zone of the Budapest World Heritage Site and decided the following declaration.

Declaration

The planned development in Beksi Street, which lies in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site, seriously threatens the preservation and protection of its integrity. This will further threaten the situation in Budapest where the Hungarian State must submit a report to the World Heritage Centre because of over-development of Erzsébet Town, which is part of the same World Heritage Site.

Historic urban sites of World Heritage status require protection and priority should be given to enhancing the existing urban structure. All aspects of new development must respect this traditional environment, and the historic town must not be overpowered by new construction but should be complemented by it.

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It is impossible to retain the values and the atmosphere of a protected area if important buildings are demolished and new ones do not respect the historic town structure.

ICOMOS, as the expert advisory body to the World Heritage Centre in the area of Cultural Heritage, considers the new plan for Becsi Street to be a very negative intervention into the World Heritage Site. In the interest of the preservation of the historic values of the Budapest listed area, **we urge the revision of this inappropriate and detrimental development.**

In addition to this declaration it is important to point out that the planned projects concern in any case §172 Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention (i.e. informing the UNESCO).

Yours sincerely,

Wilfried Lipp
Vice-President for Europe
ICOMOS International

The following persons also receive a copy of this letter

Mr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister
Mr. István Tarlós, Mayor of Budapest
Mr. Antal Rogán, Mayor of the 5th district of Budapest
Mr. Miklós Réthelyi, Minister
Dr. Judit Tamási, President of the National Office of Cultural Heritage

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