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Организация
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Culture Sector World Heritage Centre

Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
(Europe and North America)

Ref.: CL/WHC-13/18

15 July 2013

Subject: **Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for Europe and North America - Decision 37 COM 10B**

Madam, Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Heritage Committee, at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), examined the Progress report on the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America. Please find attached in Annex I the Decision **37 COM 10B** adopted by the Committee.

In this Decision, the World Heritage Committee reiterated its appreciation to the authorities of the States Parties which have hosted or proposed to host meetings in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Europe and North America region, and expressed its gratitude to the authorities of the States Parties which have made financial contributions to the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America. The Committee also encouraged further support and collaboration in the future in the framework of this important exercise.

The World Heritage Committee also welcomed the progress made with the initiative to prepare an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity-building for the preservation of World Heritage properties in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and commended the Steering Group for its commitment to carry forward this work.

In the framework of the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee, the Europe and North America Unit organised an Exchange and Information Meeting on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. I would like to thank those of you who attended the meeting on 21 June last in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and participated in the fruitful discussions. Those who were unable to attend can consult the presentation and summary of the meeting at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1055/>

May I also take this opportunity to announce that all Focal Points from the Europe and North America region are invited to attend the **Periodic Reporting Mid-cycle Review Meeting** which is scheduled to take place on **22 November 2013** after the 19th session of the *General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention*, at UNESCO Headquarters.

The one-day meeting will be an excellent opportunity to present the results of the preliminary analysis for the European Periodic Report for Group A (please refer to Annex II) and discuss the way forward with the overall regional report for Europe to be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015. The Europe and North America Unit will send the official invitation letter and meeting agenda shortly.

Also, the World Heritage Centre will provide shortly the National Focal Points and Site Managers of Group A with all necessary information concerning the follow-up of the Periodic Reporting exercise after the submission of the questionnaire by 31 July 2013. The World Heritage Centre will also send to the National Focal Points and Site Managers of the States Parties included in Group B (please refer to Annex II) all necessary information concerning the launch of the Periodic Reporting online questionnaire for Group B in September 2013.

For more information and guidance tools for the implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise please refer to the web platform which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/EUR-NA>. The World Heritage Centre remains at your disposal for any questions that may arise which may be addressed by e-mail to wh-periodicreporting@unesco.org.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kishore Rao
Director

Encl.

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO (Europe and North America region)
National Focal Points (Europe and North America region)

Extract of the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013)

Progress report on the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America

Decision: 37 COM 10B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10B** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),
3. Recalling furthermore that the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America takes place on a two-year basis (Group A: North America, Western, Nordic and Baltic Europe sub-regions for the first year 2012-2013, and Group B: Mediterranean, Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the second year 2013-2014), provided that a report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for North America will be presented at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014, and an overall report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015,
4. Takes note of the activities implementing the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Group A and preparing the launch of Periodic Reporting for Group B;
5. Thanks the German authorities and the Georgian authorities for having hosted preparatory meetings in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise;
6. Also thanks the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for its collaboration in the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting;
7. Reiterates its sincere appreciation to the Italian authorities, the Azerbaijani authorities and the Luxembourg authorities for their proposals to host future meetings in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2013-2015;
8. Welcomes the progress made with the initiative to prepare an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity-building for the preservation of World Heritage properties in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and commends the Steering Group for its commitment to carry forward this work;
9. Also commends the States Parties which have submitted draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value before the official launch of the Periodic Reporting exercise as requested in Decision **35 COM 10C.2**, and urges the States Parties to submit the pending retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as soon as possible;

10. Reiterates its gratitude to the Andorran, Monegasque, Portuguese and Dutch authorities, as well as the Flemish authorities for their financial contributions to the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America, and encourages further support and collaboration in the future;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report back to the World Heritage Committee on progress made with Periodic Reporting at its 38th session in 2014.

Annex II

Groupings for the implementation of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe and North America

Due to the high number of World Heritage properties in the Europe and North America region, the Periodic Reporting exercise will be conducted over three years with countries divided into two groups. However, the questionnaire will be available for completion and submission to the respective groups only during one year as follows:

Group A (September 2012 – 31 July 2013):

Austria - Belgium - Canada - Denmark - Estonia - Finland - France - Germany - Iceland - Ireland - Latvia - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Monaco - Netherlands - Norway - Sweden - Switzerland - United Kingdom - United States of America

Group B (September 2013 – 31 July 2014):

Albania - Andorra - Armenia - Azerbaijan - Belarus - Bosnia Herzegovina - Bulgaria - Croatia - Cyprus - Czech Republic – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Georgia - Greece - Holy See - Hungary - Israel - Italy - Malta - Moldova - Montenegro - Poland - Portugal - Romania - Russian Federation - San Marino - Serbia - Slovakia - Slovenia - Spain - Turkey - Ukraine