

## **The Report on the State of Conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage property**

### **Auschwitz-Birkenau, German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C-31)**

#### **Executive Summary**

This report on the State of Conservation of UNESCO World Heritage property is a response to the ICOMOS review of 2015, and presents current state of work on the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Auschwitz Birkenau, German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) and its surroundings. The report covers the period from March 2015 to the beginning of January 2016.

#### **1. Construction of the planned expressway S-1 and the southern ring road of Oświęcim**

At the end of April 2015, a meeting of the Commission for the Assessment of Investment Projects (CAIP) of the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways (GDDKiA) was held. The Commission unanimously approved the main route of expressway as part of variant E (the hybrid variant), which covers the construction of the ring road of Oświęcim, along with the bridge over the river Soła. The variant E is a combination of variants A and B, whose routes have been approved by the World Heritage Committee at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2009 (decision no. 33 COM 7B.115) as variants that do not pose a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property; they were also approved by a group of international experts in 2013. An application for a decision on the environmental conditions for approval for implementation of an investment was submitted to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in June 2015 (in short — an environmental decision). Further research and analyses related to the route of the ring road of Oświęcim in the surrounding of the World Heritage property, also Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), will be carried out at next stages of the construction works, i.e. after receiving the environmental decision.

#### **2. Conservation policy**

Since the last report of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, work has been continued with an aim of the protection, conservation and presentation of the World Heritage property – mainly conducted by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum to fulfil its statutory tasks (details in the Report of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, app. 2 of the SOC report); as well as protection of its surroundings, for the realization of which responsible are the Commune of Oświęcim and the Commune of the Town of Oświęcim.

#### **3. New Service Centres for Visitors in Brzezinka and Oświęcim**

The main parking lot for visitors to KL Birkenau along with associated infrastructure in Brzezinka has been fenced and used since 2013.

The New Service Centre for Visitors of the Auschwitz Memorial in Oświęcim reached the stage of a prepared construction project. At present, intensive search for funds to implement this key investment is being conducted.

#### **4. Strategy for Visitors Traffic Service and Flow**

The traffic of visitors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and other places in the Town and Commune of Oświęcim is maintained and successively developed.

Due to the increasing number of visitors in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (1.72 million persons in 2015) introduced the need for early registration and booking of visits.

In matters of transport logistics, at present, visitors are provided with parking lots along the infrastructure, both in Oświęcim near Auschwitz I (owned by the ABSM), and in Brzezinka where the parking for the visitors of Auschwitz II-Birkenau is located (owned by the Commune of Oświęcim) and better access as to Judenrampe and potato warehouses.

#### 5. Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property

The project of the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been corrected, and after consultation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum sent once again to the World Heritage Centre. At present, the corrected document is verified by ICOMOS.