

## Kiev (Ukraine)

### No 527 bis

#### 1. BASIC DATA

*State Party:* Ukraine

*Name of property:* Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra

*Location:* Kiev

*Inscription:*

The property consists of two distinct core zones, one of Saint-Sophia Cathedral and the other of the monastic buildings of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra. The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990 on the basis of criteria: i, ii, iii and iv. At the time of the inscription, no buffer zone was defined, and the Committee recommended that the authorities concerned respect the environment of these two outstanding monumental ensembles.

*Brief Description:*

Designed to rival Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, Kiev's Saint-Sophia Cathedral symbolizes the 'new Constantinople', capital of the Christian principality of Kiev, which was created in the 11th century in a region evangelized after the baptism of St Vladimir in 988. The spiritual and intellectual influence of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra contributed to the spread of Orthodox thought and the Orthodox faith in the Russian world from the 17th to the 19th century.

#### 2. ISSUES RAISED

*The document:*

*Buffer Zone of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastery Buildings* was received by the World Heritage Centre on 6 April 2005. The report notes that the proposed buffer zone encompasses the most valuable historic and cultural aspects of Kiev, including the State Historic and Architectural Preserve "Starodavniy (ancient) Kyiv", and the protective zones of Volodymyrska St. and Khreshchatyk. The boundaries have been slightly changed compared to previous proposal, now including parts of the Kyiv's Upper City plateau within the limits of the ancient fortification and representing its historic setting. The buffer zone has been reduced at the expense of parts in the vicinity of Independence Square (Maydan Nezalezhnosti) belonging to the ensemble of Khreshchatyk street.

The proposed buffer zone is relatively large, covering areas that are already legally protected. While recognising that there are thus probably valid reasons for the proposed

definition of the buffer zone boundaries, ICOMOS nevertheless regrets that there is hardly any information provided on the character and eventual qualities of the surrounding urban context in the documents provided. On the east side of the St. Sophia Cathedral, the urban layout within the buffer zone includes streets that have as a focal point the fairly large and formal Independence Square (Maydan Nezalezhnosti), associated with the Khreshchatyk street. It is surprising that the boundary cuts this urban square diagonally, ignoring it as a significant element in the urban design. The question can be raised why the whole urban square was not included in the buffer zone, extending the boundary up to the main street, only some fifty meters further east? We note that the scope of the buffer zone is to provide an urban planning instrument for the control of change, but it can also highlight significant urban forms.

In June 2005, ICOMOS was invited by the World Heritage Centre to consider the request made by the State Party to carry out a monitoring mission to examine the state of conservation of Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings.

#### 3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

##### *Recommendation with respect to inscription*

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B Add,
2. Commends the State Party for having proposed the buffer zones.
3. Approves the minor modification of the buffer zone of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastery Buildings.
4. Welcomes the proposal by the State Party to organise a mission to the site that would as well examine the choice of the eastern boundary of the buffer zone and the existing quality and condition of the urban fabric of the central Kiev both inside and outside of the buffer zones.

ICOMOS, June 2005