



LJ 2015-206 PSM
(cc:EUR)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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20/1/15

World Heritage Centre
Mr Kishore Rao
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**Permanent Delegation of the
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to UNESCO**

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Reference

2015B-005

Date: 30 January 2015

Subject: Van Nellefabriek (Netherlands), information as requested

Dear Mr Rao,

In response to your letter of 23 July 2014 with reference GLT/HER/WHC/PSM/14/LJ/393 and the request of the World Heritage Committee to submit a report on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations mentioned in the decision to inscribe the Van Nellefabriek on the World Heritage List (decision 38 COM 8B.35), I am pleased to provide you with the information that you requested.

Further to this, and in addition to the nomination file and the supplement thereto, I am able to inform you as follows about the developments concerning the recommendations relating to the Van Nellefabriek.

- Confirming the completion and promulgation of the new municipal urban development plan for the property and the whole of its buffer zone; it is also necessary to pay attention to the height regulations for the other zones in the vicinity of the property and its buffer zone, so as to conserve visual integrity.

As mentioned in the supplement (2014), the zoning plan is the legal device to direct spatial developments within the municipal territories. With a view to the nomination for the World Heritage List, the municipal policy in the area has been defined more clearly, so as to improve protection of the Van Nellefabriek and its visibility. After the merging of zoning plan areas and the renewal of the prevailing plans, the buffer zone will be covered by five new zoning plans. Based on the planological measures included in these plans, the municipality of Rotterdam can guarantee that the quality of the present views of the Van Nellefabriek will be preserved.

Of the five zoning plans that apply to the Van Nellefabriek and its buffer zone, the most important – for the “Spaanse Polder”, in which the Van Nellefabriek is incorporated – was adopted by Rotterdam city council on 23 January 2014 and became irrevocable on 17 December 2014.

The “Spangen” zoning plan became irrevocable on 3 May 2014.

The “Middeland-Het Nieuwe Westen” zoning plan was adopted in 2009 and was already of a conservational nature. It offers sufficient protection for safeguarding the OUV of the Van Nellefabriek.

For the “Blijdorpsepolder” zoning plan a preparatory decision was taken on 17 July 2014. In a preparatory decision, it is legally regulated that applications for building permits for developments which comply with the prevailing zoning plan but which are incompatible with the new zoning plan can be rejected. As soon as the new or revised zoning plan takes effect, the preparatory decisions in question will be cancelled, as their protective effect is then incorporated into the new zoning plan.



The "Overschie" zoning plan is scheduled for adoption in the autumn of 2015. In the area situated within the buffer zone, no development options are available. Consequently no preparatory decision was needed.

The measures that have been taken, will also ensure that the spatial developments in the vicinity of the Van Nellefabriek can be actively monitored and that action can be taken to prevent any undesirable developments.

- Confirming the effective setting up of the Management Committee for the property in its definitive enlarged form, and its practical functioning.

As already announced, a representative of the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) has been added to the Management Committee, which now consists of representatives of the Van Nellefabriek, the municipal monuments office, and the RCE. This new committee meets four times per year and has had its first meeting on 15 January 2015. The expanded "Management Committee plus" will deal on the one hand with the current activities of the Management Committee in relation to the directives regarding the interior, and on the other hand with the preliminary consultation regarding newly desired activities and developments, identifying bottlenecks and opportunities, and shaping the monitoring system for the World Heritage site as required by UNESCO. The Committee will work with a protocol, on the basis of the existing responsibilities and roles of the various parties.

- Confirming that there is no threat to the property from the transport of hazardous materials in the vicinity.

Hardly any transport of dangerous goods takes place by rail between the cities of Rotterdam and Delft, due to the limitations of a nearby tunnel. This type of rail transport does take place on the Rotterdam-Gouda line, but that is more than a kilometre away from the Van Nelle complex. In principle there is no transport of dangerous goods on the Delfshavense Schie canal because it runs through a densely populated area.

The distance to Rotterdam-The Hague Airport is such that there is no increased risk from air traffic. In the Spaanse Polder, transport of goods takes place by road, on national road A20. The distance to the building complex is approximately 300 m.

It can be concluded that the risk contour for transport by road, canal and rail coincides with the road, the canal and the railways themselves. There is no significant danger for the surrounding buildings close to the railway, road, and waterway.

- Submitting all proposals for a project for the construction of a visitor reception centre at the entrance to the property to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The supplement to the nomination file that was sent in February 2014 mentions a feasibility study for the creation of a visitor centre at the Van Nellefabriek site. All the various options mentioned assume the use of existing spaces within the Van Nellefabriek complex. There is no intention to erect a new building at the nominated property to serve as a permanent visitor centre.

The cooperating bodies within the Van Nellefabriek are currently working on a plan to create a visitor facility/museum within the former coffee roasting plant. These plans are being developed under the supervision of the architect Wessel de Jonge. They are expected to be completed this spring and will then be submitted to all the assessment bodies, including UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. Creating a visitor facility – the "Van Nelle Experience" – will also expand the visiting options for individual visitors. Archiguides has agreed, for example, to arrange tours of the factory on fixed days, regardless of the number of visitors.

There have now been contacts with the head of the Europe and North America Unit of the World Heritage Centre, Ms Petya Totcharova, regarding the ceremony to commemorate the inscription of the Van Nellefabriek on the World Heritage List. We hope that we can celebrate that ceremony together in the spring of 2015, and we will make the necessary efforts to ensure this. Please let us know what steps we need to take to prepare the World Heritage Certificate for the occasion.



As requested, here are the administrative details of the management of the World Heritage site:

Van Nellefabriek
Mr R.J.M.S. Meertens, director
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The Netherlands
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<http://www.vannellefabriek.com/Unesco>

In your letter, you also asked for a response regarding the maps that had been made and the brief description of the Factory in English and French, before 1 December 2014. Given that we were able to agree to these, we did not reply separately.

I hope that I have provided you with the necessary information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Veer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

H.E. Lionel Veer, Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO

Copy to:

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Cultural Heritage Agency, Amersfoort
- National UNESCO Commission, The Hague
- Municipality of Rotterdam
- C.V. Van Nelle Ontwerpfabriek, Rotterdam
- Icomos, Paris