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Antwort bitte unter Anführung der GZ an die Abteilungsmail

**UNESCO-World Heritage property: Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C1033);  
SOC Report 2016**

Dear Madam,

The Federal Chancellery confirms with thanks having received your reminder letter, CLT/HER/WHC/8689/AT/MK/AS, dated 18 March 2016, regarding an actual state of conservation report for the World Heritage property “Historic Centre of Vienna” as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 39<sup>th</sup> session.

Please find enclosed the report as provided by the City-Administration of Vienna for your consideration. The report reflects the views of the City.

Attachment

Faithfully

Vienna, 31. March 2016  
For the Federal Minister for the Arts, Culture,  
Constitution and Media:  
MALDONER

**Elektronisch gefertigt**



*"The ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the two Viennese World Heritage properties took place from 16 to 19 November 2015. In accordance with the requests of the World Heritage Committee formulated in Bonn in June 2015, Mr Giancarlo Barbato – acting in his capacity as the expert deployed by ICOMOS – was comprehensively informed by experts of the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria and of the City of Vienna about the strategies and instruments in place to protect the UNESCO World Heritage properties. Inter alia, detailed information was provided on the 2014 High-rise Concept of the City of Vienna and on the Glacis Master Plan.*

*The discussions with Mr Giancarlo Barbato specifically focused on the project "Vienna Ice-Skating Club-InterContinental Hotel-Vienna Konzerthaus". The talks aimed at offering a comprehensive and detailed overview of the project per se as well as at providing information about the urban-spatial effects of the project on the residents of the area and reporting on the potential visual consequences of the project for Vienna's cityscape.*

*Motivated by the intention of compiling a comprehensive report, representatives of civil society, too, were invited to present their critical viewpoint, in particular in connection with the project "Vienna Ice-Skating Club-InterContinental Hotel".*

*In conjunction with the Heritage Impact Assessment addressed in Decision 39 COM 7B.94, the current visualisations, visual impact assessments, 3-D models and detailed architectural plans were presented and submitted.*

*Halting the development of the project "Vienna Ice-Skating Club-InterContinental Hotel" at the current moment in order to await the assessments of the World Heritage Committee regarding its compatibility with the World Heritage status does not seem feasible from a present-day perspective. This is primarily due to the quite different time schedules of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee sessions, which take place only once per year, on the one hand and the co-ordination measures required for the project under Vienna's legislative system on the other hand.*

*The City of Vienna maintains the opinion that a potential implementation of the project taking the form of further storeys added to the existing InterContinental Hotel and the construction of a new residential high-rise will not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property "Historic Centre of Vienna", and that the integrity of the World Heritage property will be preserved in its entirety.*

*Among other reasons, this position stems from the results of intensive, multi-year deliberations by international experts, who discussed the potential construction of a high-rise at the periphery of the World Heritage core zone with a broad-based approach that allowed for conflicting viewpoints. The expert discussions showed that the project development should avoid placing the focus solely on the height issue. According to the experts' opinion, it would seem to be much more useful to pay attention to the qualities of urbanism and urban space.*

*However, no final decision has been taken so far on whether the legal framework should be created to implement the project "Vienna Ice-Skating Club-InterContinental Hotel-Vienna Konzerthaus" by adding further storeys to the existing InterContinental Hotel and constructing a new residential high-rise.*

*The final political decision will be taken by the Vienna City Council as the legislative body of Vienna. To create the legal basis for the above project, a majority of the Vienna City Council members would have to agree to an amendment of the existing land use and development plan. From a present-day perspective, it is possible that such a bill will be submitted to the Vienna City Council for decision in late 2016. If the Vienna City Council should indeed create an appropriate legal basis, construction work could begin in spring 2018.*

*At this point, I would like to emphasise that the City of Vienna is aware of the responsibility entailed by its World Heritage status. Care is taken to ensure that the urban development measures will be in line with the obligations arising from the World Heritage status of the property "Historic Centre of Vienna".*

*If any additional information should be requested, we will of course be happy to submit this at any time. By way of conclusion, I would like to express thanks on behalf of the City of Vienna for the extremely positive and constructive co-operation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre."*