

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1533/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 18 January 2017

H. E. Mrs Vincenza Lomonaco
Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO
Hôtel de Gallifet
73, rue de Grenelle
75007 Paris

World Heritage List 2017

Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th Centuries (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro) – Interim report

Dear Madam,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2017. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro) was carried out by Mr Nicolas Faucherre (France) from 11 to 22 September 2016. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

On 17 October 2016, a letter requesting additional information was sent by ICOMOS on the following issues: the rationale for the selection of the 15 nominated components; involvement of other State Parties and inclusion of sites relating to the full extent of the Venetian defences and trade networks beyond the territories of the three nominating States Parties; comprehensive overview of all Venetian defences (inside and outside the three participating States Parties) from which the 15 components have been selected; update on the status and activities of the International Coordination Group; and further information about the rationale for including geomorphological context as part of the justification for selecting the 15 components. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 14 November 2016 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2016, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2017. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2017.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 24 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas which would require the need to review, augment and reconfigure the nomination dossier.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that a transnational series that can demonstrate the innovative system of defences established by the Republic of Venice has the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated by the current series.

This evaluation by the ICOMOS Panel rests primarily on significant concerns about the timeframe put forward and the selection of the 15 components within the three participating States Parties in relation to the overall scope of the defensive works of the Venetian Serenissima.

In relation to the timeframe, while the States Parties have argued for the inclusion of examples from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, ICOMOS currently finds that the 15th century examples are relatively weakly justified, and strongly questions their inclusion as it was during the 16th and early 17th centuries that innovative *allamoderna* solutions were developed.

In relation to the selection of sites, while much useful information has been provided in the additional information submitted in November 2016, the comparative analysis needs to explicitly outline all sites in the world with significant Venetian defensive works from the 16th and 17th centuries (which are well documented) in order to clearly show how a series, or more than one series, of selected components might represent its full expression.

Issues of selection of the components of a series are obviously further accentuated by concerns about the ability of component sites within Italy, Croatia and Montenegro to fully represent the extent and innovative characteristics of this system. ICOMOS is very grateful for the additional information provided to clarify this issue, and while the reasons why several of some other relevant States Parties have not opted to participate in the transnational proposal are understood, ICOMOS does not consider that the current claims made concerning Outstanding Universal Value can be sustained without them.

In order to revise the nomination to address these issues, ICOMOS considers that a nomination strategy needs to be developed which could explore how the scope and extent of Venetian fortifications from the 16th and 17th centuries might be represented on the World Heritage list. Such a strategy might offer several possible avenues; however, none of these are considered achievable within the very tight remaining calendar for the current evaluation cycle. Given the range of substantial inter-related issues mentioned above and the short time which is allowed by the Operational Guidelines to address them, ICOMOS considers that the work will need to extend beyond the current evaluation cycle.

In the spirit of fostering dialogue, should the States Parties consider that further explanations are required, we kindly request you to contact the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit to arrange a meeting.

In closing, please be assured that ICOMOS well understands that the issues identified by the ICOMOS Panel will be met with deep disappointment by the many experts and local and national authorities that have been working closely together for some years already. If requested, ICOMOS would be ready and willing to work with the States Parties once the current cycle is over to consider possible ways forward, along the same collaborative lines as has been undertaken in recent years with several States Parties in order to achieve a positive outcome in a future cycle.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Adele Cesi, Focal Point per l'attuazione della Convenzione sulla protezione del Patrimonio Mondiale
UNESCO Coordinamento e relazioni internazionali
Ministry of Culture, Croatia
Rut Carek, Croatian Commission for UNESCO
Ministry of Culture, Montenegro
Permanent Delegation of Croatia to UNESCO
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Our Ref. GB/AS/1533/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 18 January 2017

H. E. Mr Ivo Goldstein
Permanent Delegation of Croatia to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

World Heritage List 2017

Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th Centuries (Italy, Croatia, Montenegro) – Interim report

Dear Sir,

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We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 24 November 2016 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas which would require the need to review, augment and reconfigure the nomination dossier.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that a transnational series that can demonstrate the innovative system of defences established by the Republic of Venice has the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated by the current series.

This evaluation by the ICOMOS Panel rests primarily on significant concerns about the timeframe put forward and the selection of the 15 components within the three participating States Parties in relation to the overall scope of the defensive works of the Venetian Serenissima.

In relation to the timeframe, while the States Parties have argued for the inclusion of examples from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, ICOMOS currently finds that the 15th century examples are relatively weakly justified, and strongly questions their inclusion as it was during the 16th and early 17th centuries that innovative *allamoderna* solutions were developed.

In relation to the selection of sites, while much useful information has been provided in the additional information submitted in November 2016, the comparative analysis needs to explicitly outline all sites in the world with significant Venetian defensive works from the 16th and 17th centuries (which are well documented) in order to clearly show how a series, or more than one series, of selected components might represent its full expression.

Issues of selection of the components of a series are obviously further accentuated by concerns about the ability of component sites within Italy, Croatia and Montenegro to fully represent the extent and innovative characteristics of this system. ICOMOS is very grateful for the additional information provided to clarify this issue, and while the reasons why several of some other relevant States Parties have not opted to participate in the transnational proposal are understood, ICOMOS does not consider that the current claims made concerning Outstanding Universal Value can be sustained without them.

In order to revise the nomination to address these issues, ICOMOS considers that a nomination strategy needs to be developed which could explore how the scope and extent of Venetian fortifications from the 16th and 17th centuries might be represented on the World Heritage list. Such a strategy might offer several possible avenues; however, none of these are considered achievable within the very tight remaining calendar for the current evaluation cycle. Given the range of substantial inter-related issues mentioned above and the short time which is allowed by the Operational Guidelines to address them, ICOMOS considers that the work will need to extend beyond the current evaluation cycle.

In the spirit of fostering dialogue, should the States Parties consider that further explanations are required, we kindly request you to contact the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit to arrange a meeting.

In closing, please be assured that ICOMOS well understands that the issues identified by the ICOMOS Panel will be met with deep disappointment by the many experts and local and national authorities that have been working closely together for some years already. If requested, ICOMOS would be ready and willing to work with the States Parties once the current cycle is over to consider possible ways forward, along the same collaborative lines as has been undertaken in recent years with several States Parties in order to achieve a positive outcome in a future cycle.

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Gwenaëlle Bourdin
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Our Ref. GB/AS/1533/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 18 January 2017

H. E. Ms Dragica Ponorac
Permanent Delegation of Montenegro to UNESCO
Ambassade du Monténégro
5, rue de la Faisanderie
75016 Paris

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