



# Report on the Joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to "Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue" (Hungary) 29- 30 April 2019



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The Mission also expresses its thanks to the representatives of the Municipal Districts for explaining the work that they are undertaking in their Districts and clarifying some of the challenges they face.

Many experts of the various projects underway in and around the World Heritage property presented their projects and helped members of the Mission understand what has been achieved, what is planned and what deficiencies may exist. Their time and work for the protection and the further development of the heritage of Budapest is much appreciated.

Thanks are also due to the Civil Society members and representatives of the NGOs who came to meet the Mission to put across their views and those of their organisations.

The Mission wishes to convey special thanks to the constant participation and support of Ms. Kinga Bartha and Ms. Anna Puskás for the organisation and practical assistance throughout the mission.

A list of all those who attended the various meetings during the Mission and who made presentations is included in the Agenda of the Mission, Annex 6.3.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The World Heritage property "Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue" as a "centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Obuda. One example thereof is the Buda Castle Quarter with its medieval and characteristically Baroque style, which are distinct from the extended and uniquely homogeneous architecture of Pest [...] The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrássy Avenue ('The Avenue') and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realisations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which became widespread in the second part of the 19th century. The scenic view of the banks of the Danube as part of the historic urban landscape is a unique example of the harmonious interaction between human society and a natural environment." Increasingly developed as a tourist destination, the city is now seeing a great pressure for investments, be it by the state or by private investors, that all are realized within short time schedules.

The Government of Hungary invited a joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Budapest April 29-30, 2019 as a result of the Committee Decision **41COM 7B.46**. The Committee noted with concern that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which might substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Noting that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyse all ongoing and planned interventions, and also urged the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken. The Committee further requested that should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property.

The Mission met with the relevant authorities in Budapest and reviewed the plans, drawings, and documents that the State Party and various agencies put forward in English. The Mission also visited with the Hungarian authorities, a number of places within the property, the buffer zone and some areas outside. The Mission also met with representatives of the local communities and residents of the districts in and around the World Heritage property.

The Mission analysed a number of issues and threats to the property. Many large projects and interventions occur without a clear and comprehensive management plan for the property and its buffer zone or a city development plan for the whole city, though each district seems to follow plan of sorts. Given the number of new constructions in and around the property, completed, ongoing, and proposed, it seems that a number of projects when proposed are not shared with the World Heritage Centre (WHC) for review by the Advisory Bodies in conformation of procedure as per paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines prior to commencing works. A several documents have been submitted to the WHC in Hungarian and hence do not allow for them to be reviewed. The Mission was informed that no single office, person, or authority had an overview of the complete list of all projects ongoing and proposed, in the property and its buffer zone. There is also an absence of a comprehensive management plan and a site manager or authority over the entire property and its buffer zone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Description of the property from nomination dossier submitted to the World Heritage Centre, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400

In general, construction-permits are delivered without the the due processes as detailed in the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Many proposals have not included detailed plans for major interventions within the property or the buffer zone and for several no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) following the guidelines of ICOMOS have been submitted. Even when HIAs have been prepared, they have not followed international standards, and have not been led by highly qualified contractors who are independent from the investors, and have not contained verifiable analysis when they have been submitted for review by ICOMOS. Adequate studies for assessing visual impact have not been carried out. Special projects development areas have been demarcated and empowered with authority to propose and implement development and restoration works and run programmes in them with a view to the cultural offer and/or financial benefit including through tourism. As a result, a number of new constructions are underway that may have a negative impact on authenticity and the visual impact of the property, within the buffer zone and in its wider setting.

Furthermore, large scale reconstruction work is ongoing at the Buda Castle quarter as part of the Hauszmann Plan that poses a threat to the authenticity of the property's OUV. The approach employed is to reconstruct buildings or parts of it that have been destroyed during World War II or in the communist period to recover an idealized older history. Such reconstruction on a large scale, however, leads to important and cumulative threats to the authenticity of the property. These are compounded by the fact that often façades are maintained whilst the interiors of historical building are replaced. A retro-architecture blurring distinctions betweencontemporary interventions and historical ones create a fixed, stereotypical and idealized image of the past rather than a rich and layered reading of historical epochs. The Mission was not provided with any overall clear and detailed rationale that could offer a justification for the major interventions that were in progress or planned and which had the potential for highly adverse impact on OUV. As the decisions were made and activities being implemented, the Mission saw no further reflection among the responsible officials on the appropriateness of the approach which is clearly necessary.

Most significantly, the management plan that was registered with the WHC was nominal. The State Party has reported now having identified funds for the preparation of a comprehensive Management Plan thatis urgently necessary and has been demanded by the World Heritage Committee for a number of years. A city development plan or master plan for the development of the urban area is also not prepared which poses further challenges to integrating the heritage conservation efforts with urban development. Moreover, as it will take two more years for the Management Plan to be prepared, most of the ongoing constructions will be completed by the time the Management Plan is adopted. A site Manager coordinating the many involved authorities and stressing the importance of authenticity and integrity for the OUV is also urgently needed.

No single office, person, or authority had an overview of the complete list of all projects ongoing and proposed, in the property and its buffer zone. The absence of adequate governance for World Heritage, including a site manager or authority over the entire property and its buffer zone to ensure clear management of the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Without such an office or person, no systematic interactions take place with all the stakeholders of the property and its buffer zone.

In addition, two extensions of the buffer zone (to the North and to the West) have been requested since 2002; they are important for an effective protection of the property. Nothing has been undertaken so far to prepare a proposal forthe World Heritage Committee.

Compounded together, the numerous unsolved issues, the blurring of the distinctions between conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction, in addition to the speed of the development work ongoing, collectively and cumulatively impact the authenticity and integrity of the property adversely and puts the OUV of the property in danger. The Mission is convinced that the property has reason to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The scale and scope of the interventions that are impacting adversely on the property are significant. Numerous documents, projects and drawings have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre only in Hungarian which does not allow review and feedback by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and furthermore, HIAs and analysis need to be in conformity with ICOMOS guidelines. Compounded together, the numerous unsolved issues, the blurring of the distinctions between conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction in addition to the speed of the development work ongoing, collectively and cumulatively impact the authenticity and integrity of the property adversely. What is urgently needed is for current work to be halted and alternative approaches to conservation and development in and around the property and its buffer zone be developed, supported by policies, and possible mitigation measures explored to protect the OUV of the property.

The Missions Recommendations are:

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Conservation:

R5.1 Reorient further development and abandon the general policy of reconstruction 5.1.1 Separate from the recommendations for single buildings, including the general policy to reconstruct entire buildings, parts of them or parts of areas needs to be revised. Given the scale and scope of the interventions that are impacting adversely on the property, current work should be halted and the State Party is recommended, in dialogue with the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, and international experts to develop alternative approaches to conservation and development in and around the property and its buffer zone and explore possible mitigation measures to protect the

OUV of the property supported by appropriate policies and conservation plans.

A full inventory of reconstructions planned or thought about in the property and its buffer zones is to be established and submitted to the WHC and the advisory bodies. The list should be accompanied by all illustrative and informative elements in English or French such as such as detailed plans, renderings, and photos of models.

### **R5.2** Protect the authenticity of the property

R5.2.1 Processes and procedures for conservation need to be established to ensure that authenticity is maintained.

### **R5.3** Establish clear goals for Conservation

R5.3.1 A clear set of goals needs to be established for the conservation measures and principles for the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.3.2 Clear distinctions between conservation, recovery, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction following international norms and standards need to be defined and adopted.

R5.3.3 Principles and guidelines for the conservation of exteriors and interiors and the rules for adaptive re-use based on international norms and standards must be established.

### Individual projects:

### **R5.4 Buda Caste Quarter: Hauszmann Plan**

R5.4.1 Prior to granting further permits for development/ restoration/reconstruction works, including the reconstruction of the grand reception room in the south part of the Buda Castle and the former foreign office building, and before any decision for permit is granted or works commenced, an HIA (following the guidelines of ICOMOS) needs to be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre along with the detailed designs and plans (in English or French) for review by the Advisory Bodies. A reorientation of the approach to conservation and reconstruction is urgently necessary in line with R5.1.and this revised approach needs to be set out as part of any HIA.

### **R5.5 Liget Budapest Park**

R5.5.1 The HIA submitted by the State Party needs to revised to conform to the ICOMOS guidelines and be based on verifiable data which currently is not the case. The HIA needs to include a study of visual impact following an international standards and must be completed immediately and mitigation measures proposed. The study must consider both the summer state (with leaves) and the winter state (without leaves) of trees. The result has to be submitted to the Advisory Body and used to reconsider the height of the Museum of Ethnography. If, from any point within the property, the building is visible in an essential extent, the height of the building has to be consequently lowered.

### **R5.6 Radetzsky Barracks**

R 5.6.1 A study of the whole existing complex, including the interiors must be made. In the proposed project, at least the interior structures (stair, staircase, floors, main walls) of the Eastern part should be maintained. Any concrete project is to be submitted to the WHC.

### **R5.7 Other major projects:**

R5.7.1The installation of the Budapest Eye must be dismantled as soon as possible and the precise dates of the end of its functioning and the end of dismantling be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

R5.7.2The revised project for the MAHART building project, and the respective HIA, together with a professional building analysis, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to building permit being issued.

R5.7.3 For 52 Paulay Ede Street, and other ongoing developments, the detailed plans and drawings must be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review at the earliest. HIAs (including mitigation measures) must be carried out at the earliest.

R5.7.4 Former Finance Ministry building. Before any decision for permit is granted or works commenced, an HIA (following the guidelines of ICOMOS) needs to be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

### **Management Plan and Urban Planning:**

### R5.8 Establish a comprehensive Management Plan

R5.8.1 While many of the Districts of Budapest seem to have their own management plan for the conservation of historic structures, an updated and comprehensive management plan for the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone is urgently necessary. A new management plan has been envisaged for some years now but not yet prepared.

R5.8.2. The new management plan should be developed in line with the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

R5.8.3 The current proposal is to prepare a new management plan over the next two years. However, much of the ongoing and proposed development works will be completed in two years time. Hence adopting a new/ revised management plan at that point will already be too late for the large-scale interventions ongoing.

R5.8.4 The management plan needs to contain all elements normally requested; it must establish where and what kind of exterior and interior reconstruction is acceptable and provide guidance to private property owners.

### R5.9 Integrate the Management Plan with city development plan or Master Plan

R5.9.1 The management plan needs to be coordinated with the city development plan of the whole city including all districts in the property and its buffer zone, not just for the individual districts.

R5.9.2 All proposed development works at the city level including major areas of investment and tourism as well as proposed roads, bridges, mass transit, and other infrastructure need to be established in this reworked city development plan.

# R5.10 Define the acceptable heights of buildings with the help of digital or physical 3D models of the city as well as skyline studies

R5.10.1 The acceptable heights for construction in different parts of the city must be established and fixed to mitigate any negative impact on the OUV of the World Heritage property.

R5.10.2 Zones where high-rise building of the two legally possible heights could be developed without a negative impact on the integrity of the World Heritage property must be identified.

R5.10.3 The impact of high-rise buildings on the visual integrity of the World Heritage property should be assessed on a scientific and verifiable basis.

### **R5.11 Establish comprehensive guidelines**

R5.11.1 Detailed guidelines, consistent across all the districts, must be established for new construction within the World Heritage property and buffer zone. These guidelines have to include directives on loft-extensions on top of the buildings in the property and the buffer zones.

R5.11.2 The guidelines may vary for different parts of the World Heritage property but need to be clearly spelled out.

### **R5.12 Prepare complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA)**

R5.12.1 HIA following ICOMOS guidelines must be carried out for every project that may have an impact on the OUV. Contractors for HIAs must be independent from investors. HIAs must be validated by ICOMOS prior to giving permission for conservation or development works and, consequently, prior to any work commencing.

### **R5.12 Extend Buffer Zone**

R5.12.1 The definition of the buffer zone boundaries needs to be completed (Margit Island and Buffer zone to the West) and Boundary modification request submitted to the World Heritage Committee at the earliest.

### **Legislation**:

# R5.13 Halt the delivery of permits for any new developments or conservation works within the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.13.1 Until the adoption of a management plan and building guidelines no building permit should be delivered. A Decision related to this was already adopted in

the 41COM. However, the conservation and development works have continued regardless, in the meantime, they have received all necessary permits. This includes halting permits for the construction of lofts and additional floors.

### **R5.14** Review the permits for ongoing works

R5.14.1The permits for ongoing works need to be reviewed. Mitigation measures should be implemented considering these recommendations before proceeding to complete the works.

# R5.15 Ensure due processes for evaluation and regulation of conservation/restoration works proposed

R5.15.1 Clear procedures and processes should be established and enforced throughout the property for all construction work to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for all projects, be they small interventions or larger enterprises of developers and major development initiatives.

R5.15.2 The establishment of special project areas such as the Liget project and the Buda Castle project should not result in the evaluation and regulation of conservation/works being handed over to the project responsibility. Each project of the development companies should have to go through the same assessment and regulation as other projects in the World Heritage property and buffer zone to ensure the protection of the OUV.

R5.15.3 Even as the development companies move forward with great speed, the processes related to the World Heritage Committee such as conducting HIAs, notifying the WHC in advance of commencing the project (in line with paragraph 172), and awaiting the review of ICOMOS before delivering permits or proceeding with construction, should not be overlooked.

# R5.16 Establish consistent regulations throughout all the districts on matters such as heights and addition of lofts

R5.16.1 A professional study including HIAs and the examination of the visual integrityshould be undertaken and submitted to ICOMOS for approval. It should lead to a plan with compulsory force that defines within the wider setting areas without high-rise buildings, areas with a maximum height as determined by the Skyline study that would help determine the acceptable heights for interventions in the historic city and its wider surroundings.

R5.16.2 Clear regulation should be established concerning height, shape, visibility from the ground-level, materials etc. No building license for change of roof should be delivered before the regulation is submitted to the World Heritage Centre and assessed by the advisory body.

### **Engagement with Local Communities:**

### R5.17 Regularly consult with residents, local communities, and NGOs

R5.17.1 Regular consultations with local communities, residents and NGO's are necessary to be carried out at various stages of major projects from their initial concept to their final launch and their concerns addressed. Many local people and NGOs do not feel they are consulted or that their voice is heard nor are their concerns and priorities addressed in the projects and their outcomes.

### Management System:

# R5.18 Establish a single Site Manager or other authority responsible for entire World Heritage property and buffer zone

R5.18.1 The institutional structure needs to be organized to ensure that a single authority has clear oversight and control over all the conservation and development activities within the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.18.2 This authority needs to maintain a full inventory of all the conservation and development works ongoing and proposed, within the World Heritage property and buffer zone and ensure their compliance with established procedures and regulations.

# R5.19 Streamline and make consistent institutional processes for granting permits for construction and conservation works

R5.19.1 The processes for granting permits for conservation and development work needs to be streamlined and made consistent across all seven of the 23 Districts of Budapest city that are part of the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

### **Commitment to the World Heritage and Advisory Bodies:**

# R5.20 Implement Recommendations of previous Advisory and Reactive Monitoring Missions.

R5.20.1 Previous missions to Budapest in recent years have resulted in a number of recommendations – many of them around the same issues. Implementing these recommendations is essential.

### 1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

### 1.1 Introduction

The World Heritage property "Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue" as a "centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Obuda. One example thereof is the Buda Castle Quarter with its medieval and characteristically Baroque style, which are distinct from the extended and uniquely homogeneous architecture of Pest [...] The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrássy Avenue ('The Avenue') and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realisations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which became widespread in the second part of the 19th century. The scenic view of the banks of the Danube as part of the historic urban landscape is a unique example of the harmonious interaction between human society and a natural environment." Increasingly developed as a tourist destination, the city is now seeing a great pressure for investments, be it by the state or by private investors, that all are realized within short time schedules.

### 1.2 General conditions of the Mission

The Government of Hungary invited a Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Budapest April 29-30, 2019 as a result of the Committee Decision 41COM 7B.46. The Committee noted with concern that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which may substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Noting that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyse all ongoing and planned interventions, the Committee recommended that this mission take place by end of 2017 and also urged the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken. The Committee further requested that should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property.

The Mission met with the relevant authorities in Budapest and reviewed the plans and documents that the State Party and various agencies put forward in English. The Mission visited with the Hungarian authorities a number of places within the property, the buffer zone and some areas outside. The Mission also met with representatives of the local communities and residents of the districts in and around the World Heritage property.

### 1.3 History of inscription

The World Heritage property 'Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter'has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee (Paris), under criteria (ii) and (iv).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Description of the property from nomination dossier submitted to the World Heritage Centre, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400

In 2002, at the 26<sup>th</sup> session (Budapest), the property has been extended and renamed 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue'.

# 1.4 Examination of the property's state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee

### 41 COM (Krakow, Poland, 2017)

In June 2016, the State Party submitted a briefing report on proposals for an extensive campaign of restoration/reconstruction works within the Buda Castle Quarter - the 'National Hauszmann Plan'. The areas affected by the Plan include the Royal Palace district and Saint George square, the Civic Town, Szentháromság Square, Viennese Gate, Erdélyi Bastion, some areas beyond the castle and the Castle Quarter's defensive constructions. In view of the number and variety of the planned interventions, ranging from the architectural restoration of monuments and reconstruction of buildings, to contemporary interventions and urban infrastructure projects, the State Party has invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission. The mission shall review and analyze all the documentation for all revised, planned, ongoing or implemented projects submitted by the State Party, such as completed Royal Garden Bazaar project, completed Kossuth Square development project, modified Liget Budapest project, RAK-PARK project and National Hauszmann Plan for the Buda Castle Quarter, developments proposed as part of the 2024 Summer Olympics bid, including all HIAs.

On 13 December 2016, the Secretariat transmitted to the State Party, for comments, information concerning a high-rise building construction received from a third party. The State Party clarifications of 3 May 2017 are noted, and in particular that in December 2016, the Assembly of the Municipality of Budapest had modified the setting regulation of Budapest to allow buildings up to 120 metre high in the 11th District. The Prime Minister's Office responsible for the protection of cultural heritage - including World Heritage –does not consider that this revision properly reflects World Heritage rules and is also not in favor of the specific proposed high rise construction for the adverse impact it would have on the cityscape. So far, no request for building permission has been requested.

### Decision: 41 Com 7B.46

Expressed concern at the modification to the setting regulations of Budapest approved by the Municipality of Budapest in December 2016 to allow tall buildings up to 120 metre height in the 11th District, part of the wider setting of the property, which would adversely impact on World Heritage cityscape and protected views, and urged the State Party to consider how World Heritage protection can take precedent over this regulation.

The Committee reiterated its request that the State Party finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, as well as a proposal for enlargement of the buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It noted with concern that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which may substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It also noted that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyse all ongoing and planned interventions, recommended that this mission take place by end of 2017 and also urged the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken;

Should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, also requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property, in light of the conclusion of the analysis by the Advisory mission.

### **39 COM (Bonn, Germany, 2015)**

The World Heritage Committee, welcomed the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encouraged it to sustain these efforts and secure the necessary resources to ensure that no demolition, inappropriate development or deterioration of historic buildings which could constitute a threat to the property, occur in the property and its buffer zone. It requested the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies; encouraged the State Party to continue the work on the proposed enlargement of the buffer zone; requested the State Party to submit the final designs and plans for the Liget Budapest project for evaluation by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the project; and further requested the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the remaining recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;

### 37 COM (Phnom Penk, Cambodia, 2013)

The World Heritage Committee, encouraged the State Party to continue the work of preparation of the management plan and management structure for the property and its buffer zone, and the proposed enlargement of the buffer zone;

Requested the State Party to implement the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission by establishing stringent controls over applications for new development within the property and buffer zone;

### 35 COM (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 2011)

The World Heritage Committee, noted with extreme concern the major development proposal in the buffer zone in Pest adjacent to the property boundary that would result in the demolition of one side of Bécsi and urged the State Party to use all means necessary to halt this demolition; requested the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed regarding ongoing developments planned for Bécsi Street and for Heroes Square and that procedures for the Heritage Impact Assessments on Outstanding Universal Value are followed for all steps of these development proposals; welcomed the in-principle decision reached at a national level for the incorporation of Margit Island into the property buffer zone and urged the State Party to bring this initiative into action through the formal procedures of the Committee.

### 33 COM (Seville, Spain, 2009)

The World Heritage Committee noted the specific measures undertaken to re-examine demolition permits and promote a fund for rehabilitation, and urged the State Party to continue with its vigilance in preventing further losses and inappropriate development in the buffer zone of the property. It also welcomed the various strategic measures being planned, in particular the revision of the management plan, the establishment of a management body, the reassessment of the buffer zone, the assessment of the relationship between the property and the buffer zone, and the drafting of a national World Heritage Bill.

The complete list of previous Committee Decisions can be found in Annex 5.

### 1.5 Second cycle Periodic Report

Attached in Annex 6

### 1.6 Boundary issues

**Decision: 32 COM 8D** 

Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes

(Quebec City, Canada, 2008)

The World Heritage site of Budapest, including the banks of the Danube, the Buda castle quarter and Andrassy Avenue, scale 1:20000

### **Technical Summary**

The State Party has provided a clear map of the site, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone. The area in hectares of the inscribed property and its buffer zone has also been indicated.

Identification	HU-400bis
Dates of inscription	1987-2002
Area of the inscribed property	473.3 ha
Area of the buffer zone	493.8 ha
Date of receipt of the clarification	30/11/2007

# 2 LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES: NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

### 2.1 National Legislation

Overview provided by the State Party in the 2019state of conservation report:

### World Heritage property conservation is ensured by the following pieces of legislation in Hungary:

- Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage
- Act LXXVII of 2011 on World Heritage
- Act XXVI of 2018 on the Amendment Concerning the Regulation of the Construction of High Rise Buildings of Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Shaping and Development of the Built Environment
- Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Shaping and Development of the Built Environment
- Act LXXIV of 2016 on Townscape Protection
- Government Decree 68/2018. (IV. 9.) on the Rules Concerning Cultural Heritage Conservation
- Government Decree 315/2011. (XII. 27.) on the World Heritage Management Plan, the Complex Heritage Impact Assessment Documentation and Prospective World Heritage Properties

# The following district image manuals and townscape decrees affecting World Heritage property

- Decree 30/2017. (IX.29.) of the Municipal Assembly on Townscape Protection
- Decree 18/2017. (IX 29.) of the Budapest District I, Buda Castle Municipal Council on Townscape Protection
- Image Manual of Budapest, District VII, Erzsébetváros, approved by Decree No. 328/2017.
   (X.03.) of the Municipal Council
- Erzsébetváros Cityscape Protection Decree No. 25/2017. (X.09.) of the Municipal Council of Budapest, District VII, Erzsébetváros
- Decree No. 33/2017. (XII. 21.) of the Municipal Council of Budapest District VI., Terézváros
- Municipality Decree No. 9/2017. (III. 28.) of District XI on the Local Rules of Partnership Consultations Required for the Adoption of the Settlement Development Concept, Integrated Settlement Planning Strategy, Settlement Planning Means, Image Manual and Townscape
- Decree No. 27/2017 (XII. 18.) of the Municipal Council of Budapest District V, Belváros Lipótváros on Townscape Protection [Annex 4]

Until the completion of the Management Plan, the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site is guaranteed by several legal regulations.

- 1. In connection with the preservation of buildings at World Heritage sites, section 83 of Government Decree 68/2018 (IV. 9.) requires a heritage protection impact study, and section 84 requires a local heritage protection impact study. It is also a requirement or general practice to prepare an inventory of values and a scientific documentation of architectural history. Act LXXIV of 2016 regulates townscape protection concerning World Heritage sites, too, via compliance with local Townscape Image Manuals.
- 2. As to the valuable interior elements of protected buildings, section 41 (2) of Act LXIV of 2001 guarantees the protection of registered historical buildings (including the preservation of the technical conditions required for due and safe usage), as well as the protection of the components, accessories and equipment thereof in the areas of architecture, fine and applied arts, and gardening.

In view of the above, specific historical protection and the overall protection of the Area of Historical Significance provide satisfactory supervisory opportunities for the preservation of values on the World Heritage site and in its buffer zone until the Management Plan is completed. In connection with the demolition of the building on Paulay Ede Street, which is not individually protected but is historically significant and located on the World Heritage site, section 48 (1) hc) of Government Decree 496/2016 (XII.28.) will be reviewed. (That section stipulates only a reporting obligation for the demolition of the building.)

On the concern about the heights, SOC February 2019:

### **LEGAL REGULATIONS**

Hungary's legislation has introduced unified nation-wide rules for the construction of high-rise buildings. Several legal regulations must be complied with during the construction of all buildings, including high-rise buildings.

Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the formation and protection of the built environment:

The scope and purposes of the act comprise the following, especially regarding World Heritage sites:

- municipal development and urban planning;
- ii. the definition of regulations for buildings, structures and construction works;
- iii. the architectural and technical planning and realisation of buildings;
- iv. defining quality requirements for construction products, structures, materials, equipment and methods;
- v. creation of an aesthetic and humane built environment; protection of architectural heritage;
- vi. handling of municipalities' green surfaces.
- In 2018, the National Assembly adopted Act XXVI of 2018 amending the regulations of Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the development and protection of the built environment pertaining to the construction of high rise buildings. The amended act introduced stringent rules for the location of high-rise buildings, especially in Budapest, in order to protect World Heritage values:
- vii. The opinion of a central architectural and technical planning council must be sought about new buildings higher than 65 meters, in order to ensure a high architectural quality and the enforcement of townscape-related interests across the country. The opinion must be taken into consideration in proceedings by construction authorities.

### Act LXXIV of 2016 on townscape protection

The act was passed by the National Assembly in 2016 in order to support construction investments as well as the formation and protection of the unique townscapes of Hungary's municipalities, by strengthening social inclusion and consensus. The act requires Budapest districts and municipalities outside the capital to prepare their Townscape Image Manuals and townscape decrees to protect the local visual image. These documents have also been prepared by the district municipalities of Budapest, complete with rules for the erection of high-rise buildings.

### Government Decree 252/2006 (XII. 7.) on urban planning and architectural - technical councils:

The decree defines the operations and procedures of the regional and central planning councils that provide opinions on the architectural and technical documentation of buildings. The government decree was amended in 2018 in order to introduce more stringent regulations for the construction of high-rise buildings, as follows:

- viii. A central planning council reviews and issues an opinion on buildings higher than 65 meters.
- ix. The council's members must include a member of the Hungarian Academy of Arts from the field of architectural arts, and a World Heritage expert delegated by the minister responsible for the protection of World Heritage sites. The amendment eliminates the previous deficiencies in the enforcement of World Heritage interests.
- x. The following must also be submitted to the planning council as part of the architectural and technical documentation:
  - -description of how the new building fits into the townscape;
  - -visibility and silhouette examination;
  - -solar exposure study;
  - -transportation review: road, public transport and parking capacities;
  - -protection of World Heritage values.

# Government Decree 312/2012 (XI. 8.) on proceedings, audits and services by construction and supervision authorities:

The government decree regulates the procedures, audits and services of construction and supervision authorities, as well as the monitoring of those services.

The government decree was amended in 2018 in order to introduce more stringent regulations for the construction of high-rise buildings, as follows:

xi. The planning council's opinion must be sought before the issuance of a permit to erect a building higher than 65 meters. The permit must be rejected unless the planning council's opinion on the architectural and technical plan documentation is positive.

### Impact of the measure on the Outstanding Universal Value

According to the amendment to Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the formation and protection of the built environment, no building higher than 90 metres may be constructed anywhere in Hungary, including the World Heritage site of Budapest. According to the related implementation decree, more stringent regulations have been introduced for the construction of buildings higher than 65 metres in order to enforce World Heritage considerations. No building permit may be issued for a high-rise building unless its issuance is supported by the central architectural council. A World Heritage expert delegated to the council strengthens the protection of World Heritage aspects.

### 2.2 Institutional framework and Management Structure

### Extract from SOC February 2019:

From 1 March 2019, a new organisational unit within the Prime Minister's Office will be responsible for World Heritage. Once the rules of organisation and operation of that entity take effect in March, the management plans for all World Heritage sites will be reviewed and corrected, and any missing plans will be prepared. The required legal amendments will be proposed to the Government in 2019.

The work requires dialogue with the owners and managers of the buildings, and also with potential developers. HUF 300 million is available for the compilation of the Management Plan; the responsible entities are the Castle Headquarters and, within it, the Budapest World Heritage Stewardship. The Management Plan is expected to be completed in Q1 2021.

### 2.3 Management Plan

### Extract from SOC February 2019:

The Management Plan for the "Budapest, Danube Banks, Buda Castle District and Andrássy Avenue" World Heritage site was drawn up in 2004, before the promulgation of the World Heritage Act. The preparatory study for the new Management Plan – including the required content of the Foundation Documentation– has been completed. The Preliminary Documentation is being finalised, and the Management Plan based on it is currently drafted. The Management Plan and the Management Manual must be broken down into smaller units due to the complexity of the site and the various architectural and natural conditions involved.

The funds necessary for creating the Management Plan are available in the Stewardship Budget for 2019-2020. Preparations for a public procurement procedure for the design works are underway; the contents of the Management Plan are being defined. Envisaged timetable:

- Deadline for the expected announcement of the design tender: Q1-Q2 2019.
- Completion of the design process and the consultation material: Q1 2020.
- Social consultation: Q2-Q3 2020.
- Acceptance, completed document: Q1 2021.

Government Decree 315/2011 (XII. 27.) defines the form and content of the Management Plan as well as the actors and steps of the consultation process. Accordingly, the draft will be sent to the World Heritage Centre for approval.

### 2.4 Conservation Management Plans and Heritage Impact Assessment

### Extract from SOC February 2019:

According to the general provisions in Government Decree 68/2018 (IV. 9.), a conservation plan must be prepared in the preparatory phase of each project (even though the name of the plan in Hungary's legal regulation is different).

The current decrees and regulations in effect in Hungary concerning the restoration and supplementation of protected historical buildings are stringent enough to protect the assets and to preserve their historical significance.

The Hungarian regulations call for a scientific documentation of building history before a protected building can be renovated. This documentation may only be compiled by lawfully registered and licensed experts.

The first part of the building history documentation describes the past of the building based on the comprehensive review of written data (archived documents, press articles, literature, secondary literature, official documents and blueprints etc.) as well as other sources (images, objects, verbal information etc.). The result is a detailed and comprehensive summary of the building's history. (The comprehensiveness of the research is verified by the authorities based on the list of document sources.) The summary of the history requires a thorough knowledge of the building, which must be proven with the detailed documentation of its current state.

The second part of the building history documentation is an inventory of historical values. An expert makes a record of every room in the building, and identifies the items of historical value in each room. The dates of origin, the attributes and the styles of the valuable items are defined. Concerning each historical value, the expert also determines if it is worth preserving, or the ways of its potential transformation. Further specialised research is ordered by the expert if necessary, and the competent craftsmen who may restore or renovate the item are identified. The expert may order research by a professional restorer (involving the identification of wall paintings, original colors etc.) if it is not possible to clarify the history and values of the building by inspection and data review. Such wall research may only be performed by other experts, subject to stringent rules and documentation.

The last part of the building history documentation is a detailed restoration proposal. For that, the expert evaluates the building in detail, identifying its significance and role in the historical environment. Then the expert prescribes the restoration methods and the values to be conserved, restored or renewed, as well as the way of guaranteeing the significance and environmental harmony of the building.

Compiling the building history documentation (and the subsequent other historical examination documents) requires long and thorough research and repeated on-site inspections. The building history documentation of the Finance Ministry building was compiled by the Forster Centre over three months of hard work. In the case of the Carmelite Monastery, the building history documentation ordered works by professional painting and stonework restorers, which were duly performed.

The historical research is followed by a detailed architectural and technical assessment. In the case of the Carmelite Monastery, this involved the evaluation of the building's state in the following areas: architecture, building engineering, electricity, structure and support, fire prevention, and acoustics. A separate volume was dedicated to the environment of the building, transportation, public utilities, as well as underground passages and the connected castle walls.

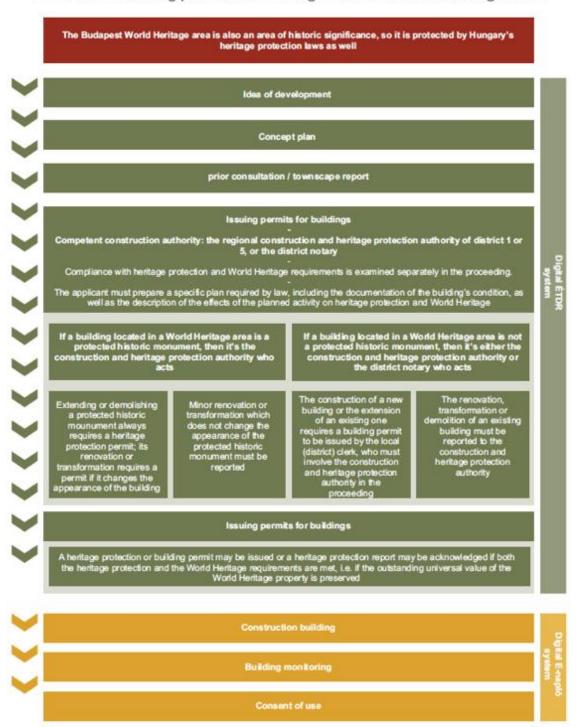
The above documents must be prepared for the renovation of each historical building, so they are also available for the buildings in the Castle Quarter. These documents have been compiled according to stringent regulations and meet all requirements in the Conservation Plan.

Ensuring compliance with the documentation is the developer's responsibility. The documents are approved by the competent authority, and compliance with them is verified. The Castle Headquarters orders a conservation plan in each development case in the Royal Palace of Buda and its surroundings.

### 2.5 Flow chart 'Building/demolition permission procedure'

# 2.5.1 Flow Chart of Procedure of issuing permits for buildings located in World Heritage areas (Provided by the State Party)

Procedure of issuing permits for buildings located in World Heritage areas



# 2.5.2 Flow Chart of Building, Municipal planning and Heritage protection regulations in World Heritage areas (provided by the State Party)

Building, municipal planning and heritage protection regulations in World Heritage areas

Actors ))) adopted by the Parliament Legislation **>>> }**}} ))) adopted by the Government of Hungary

### 3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THREATS

A very large number of major construction and development projects are being currently carried out and are proposed within the World Heritage property or in its setting. The scale of the works is substantial as are the proposed investments. While the Mission was able to review some of the major project plans under way, no comprehensive city masterplan for the whole city was available showing a comprehensive vision of the city along with the development works proposed and under way. Work on the preparation of a new Management Plan for the World Heritage property has been decided to launch but work on it is yet to begin.

With regard to the State of Conservation of the property, key threats to the protection of the OUV property are:

# 3.1 Absence of a single comprehensive city development plan and a comprehensive Management Plan

Major development works are under way without a comprehensive city development plan that identifies the vision, the objectives, and details of the interventions. According to the SoC report of 2019, anew management plan has been commissioned for the World Heritage property to the Buda World Heritage Stewardship and planned to be completed by 2021. No comprehensive guidelines for new construction have been prepared for the city. Although there seem to be a number of legal provisions for impact assessments, the impact of the proposed and ongoing development works on the OUV cannot be fully assessed – either by the authorities of Budapest or by the Mission.

### 3.2 Absence of clear objectives with regard to the Conservation of the property

The final goal of the conservation efforts is not clearly articulated or justified with regard to the OUV. There is a tacit assumption that works carried out as 'conservation and restoration' or 'reconstruction' works on heritage properties are positive steps towards safeguarding of the property. However, without a Management Plan in place, there is no clear picture of the key conservation needs and challenges or an understanding of what the desired State of Conservation would be in order to assess the interventions as contributing to the better state of conservation of the property.

# 3.3 Conservation and reconstruction work undertaken in great speed and without sufficient time for evaluation and assessment

Major interventions are being led by public sector companies with large scale investments, tight timelines, and clear business models. Although there are legal provisions for conservation studies for each heritage structure, there is also an overwhelming emphasis on the studies of the exterior facades of the buildings. Others are undertaken by private companies or developers (such as the Mahart Building project). The Liget project, for instance, was based on a report prepared by the consulting firm KPMG. Generally, officials of the companies are aware of the World Heritage status, its boundaries and significance. As they earn returns on their investments through tourism and rents, their primary motivation is to expeditiously complete the development and reconstruction works. Hence, the projects are being undertaken with great speed in a 'development project' mode. That may lead to a lack of care in the development and the assessment of projects and realisations.

# 3.4 Permits granted for conservation and development works without due processes for World Heritage

Procedures, processes, and activities necessary to be undertaken for even a single one of the interventions such as those ongoing, include consultations with local communities, providing alternatives for them or addressing their needs, completing archaeological assessments, following due processes with regard to completing Heritage Impact Assessments (following the guidelines of ICOMOS). The elaboration of Heritage Impact Assessments needs high qualifications and complete independence from the public or private investor. Further on, informing the World Heritage Centre on proposed interventions along with detailed plans prior to commencing any works (Paragraph 172 of the OG) is compulsory. Some or many of these necessary procedures have not been carried out for several of the projects. In some instances, when information has been provided to the World Heritage Centre, it has been incomplete. Documents must be provided in one the official languages and not in Hungarian.

### 3.5 Threats to authenticity with privileging of visual imagery

While reconstruction may be an admissible approach for some minor additions to an existing building, it greatly harms the authenticity of the property, when used for entire buildings or important parts of them, or as general rule for a whole quarter.

In the interventions being undertaken, the indispensable distinction between conservation, restoration, and reconstruction is not made. Numerous buildings of heritage value, including within the World Heritage property and buffer zone, were fully or partially destroyed during World War II. Many others became derelict, were abandoned, or neglected for ideological reasons for nearly three decades during the 1950s-1970s.

Hence, under the guise of conservation, large scale efforts are underway to reconstruct the structures and spaces to their pre-war glory of the early twentieth century. The Hauszmann Plan, which includes the district of the Buda castle quarter, includes for the reconstruction of important parts of buildings that have been lost or modified in the last decades. Some of these projects such as the Riding Hall, the former Stöckl Stairs and the guards Building are realised. These examples of attempts to reconstruct 'ancient glory' falsify history and compromise the authenticity of the property.

Several specific projects of reconstruction were briefly presented or mentioned to the Mission, such as the reconstruction of the Finance Ministry with its façade to the Mattias church, the extension of the former Army headquarters, the reconstruction of the former Foreign Affairs Ministry, the reconstruction of a reception hall in the castle. Other projects seem to be in an early stages with only a conceptual idea for the project.

The reconstruction approach is not limited to the Buda castle area, it is equally found in other parts of the property, including the area of Andrássy Avenue. It includes the rebuilding of entire buildings, roofs, facades, decorative motifs or entire buildings, including traditional handicraftwork in stone, wood, metal or tile work. Reconstruction-work on the Pest side must be seen to be as critical as the intentions for reconstruction in the Buda Castle quarter.

The reconstruction work is focused on the visible external facades and sometimes large interior spaces that could serve as signature spaces for public events. By doing so, in several cases, valuable authentic architectural fabric is destroyed. The procedure is a threat to authenticity and as a consequence, is an imminent threat to OUV of the property.

This emphasis on historical imagery may have been reinforced by the Townscape Act that requires Budapest districts and municipalities outside the capital to prepare Townscape Image Manuals and townscape decrees to protect the 'local visual image'.

# 3.6 Absence of clear distinction between conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction in the image of the historical

Regeneration of new structures using historical forms and designs and using traditional construction techniques, in particular, for the exterior of the buildings gives rise to confusion between the old and the new. Skilled workmanship and traditional craftsmanship, such as the roof tile work, carpentry, metal work, decorative plasterwork, and stone masonry unique to the buildings of Budapest of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, can still be found in the region. As a result, it is technically possible to reconstruct the facades and roofs of monuments and houses that may have been destroyed but entirely new buildings with historical facades and roofs can be reconstructed in the place of buildings that were substantially destroyed or even in the place of the modernist concrete buildings of the 1950s-70s.

The current policy to reconstruct many of the buildings lost during the Second World War or in the communist period, is a very delicate undertaking. As it represents a threat to the authenticity of the property and its OUV, it needs to be discussed in a broad context. It tries to give the appearance as if these painful periods would not have existed and thus tries to "correct" history. The practice has been adopted in such an extent as it is realized in the historic centre of Budapest is clearly not in concordance with the principles of the Venice Charter. If it is highly questionable in cases as the Riding Hall in the Buda Castle that has been completely reconstructed, it is doubly delicate where the testimonies of post-war-remodelling that may have qualities of their own, have to be destroyed in order to allow the reconstruction of an earlier state. This is the case with the planned reconstruction of a representative room in the castle's south wing or the plans for a reconstruction of the façades of the former Ministry of Finance building.

### 3.7 Threats to the authenticity of the roofscapes

Large scale loft construction is under way on the roofs above the main cornice across the historic urban centre. Private developers or owners receive financial incentives to carry out conservation/reconstruction of the façade of the buildings in return for permission to build new lofts on top of the buildings. Several bad examples of the last decade make clear, how delicate the addition of one or several storeys may be and how they can heavily attack the visual integrity. Obviously, the regulations in that field are insufficient.

### 3.8 Threats to relevant historical substance in the interiors

Mainly in private buildings, whilst the main façades are maintained and restored, the built structure of interiors is destroyed and newly built. Whilst in some cases the staircases are maintained, in others they are new as well. That leads to mere façade-ism, a city of imaginary. This important threat to integrity is an eminent threat for OUV.

The significant remodelling of internal structures such as staircases, windows, flooring, rooms, panelling, and mouldings, staircases, interiors etc.) in the private buildings of the World Heritage property cumulatively threaten authenticity and thus the OUV of the property The management plan needs to establish where and what kind of interior remodelling is acceptable and provide guidance to private property owners.

### 3.9 Neglect of World Heritage obligations and processes

In accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, it is obligatory to inform the World Heritage Centre regarding any significant project proposed that might have an impact on the OUV and to submit detailed plans and drawings for the review of Advisory Bodies prior to delivering permits and commencing construction. Consultations with the Advisory Bodies prior to launching design competitions are necessary to ensure that Terms of Reference will protect the OUV. In many instances, this has not been timely or sufficiently detailed to allow proper review by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. Documents, drawing, plans, and images, submitted in Hungarian or without sufficient context to assess them, do not allow the possibility of a review. Without a complete inventory of all the projects ongoing, it is difficult to assess which ones the World Heritage Centre has not been informed at all about.

Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) (following the Guidelines of ICOMOS for cultural heritage sites) are necessary to carry out and the outcomes submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies. In the case of Budapest, HIAs have not been consistently carried out for every major project prior to their approval. Many that have been carried out have not been compliance with the ICOMOS guidelines.

Previous advisory and Reactive Monitoring missions have proposed a number of Recommendations that the World Heritage Committee have further recommended implementing. Many major ones have not been implemented. Where studies to assess visual impact have been requested, they have not been prepared following international standards to be verifiable or no studies have been submitted.

# 3.10 Absence of a single Site Manager or other authority for the World Heritage property and buffer zone

The institutional structure of Budapest with multiple authorities and actors even within the World Heritage property and buffer zone, makes it all the more complex to have clear oversight and control over the conservation and development. There are 23 independent Districts in Budapest, each with their own Mayor and their own Chief Architect; the World Heritage property and buffer zone interests seven of them. Additionally, there are the Public Sector development authorities with clearly identified boundaries within which they have full powers to proceed. As a result, no individual person or single authority has a complete overview of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone. There is no inventory of all the works for conservation and development, ongoing and proposed, within the World Heritage property and buffer zone and there is no single Site Manager who has responsibility for complete oversight over them. This lack of coordination across different districts and different levels of decision-making poses a major challenge for the effective management of the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

### 3.11 Complete definition of enlarged buffer zones

The boundaries of the buffer zone have been requested to be enlarged for a number of years however the wider boundaries have not been fully defined. Since 2009 there has been various discussions and decisions of the World Heritage Committee with regard to the property and its buffer zone including the possibility of including the Margit Island within the buffer zone. In particular, the entire west side of the property, including the Buda Castle is lacking this important aspect of preservation. Hence protection of these areas and the OUV is not possible. This has been pointed out in a number of times by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and was included in the WHC Decisions (see for instance **33COM** and **35COM** Decisions related to Budapest).

### 4 ANALYSIS OF PROJECTS - COMPLETED, ONGOING AND PROPOSED

### 4.1 'National Hauszmann Plan'

The National Hauszmann Plan is a major redevelopment/restoration project involving large scale reconstruction within the Buda Castle Quarter. In view of the number and variety of the planned interventions, ranging from the architectural restoration of monuments and reconstruction of buildings, to contemporary interventions and urban infrastructure projects, the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission (following a World Heritage Committee Decision in 2017).

Large scale investment in heritage conservation/ reconstruction along with 'urban improvements' are intended to make the Buda Castle area part of the State's activities and, furthermore, and for it to become attractive for tourism as well as for holding a variety of events, programmes, and festivals.

The extent of the reconstructions, completed, ongoing, and proposed, is substantial.

The entire Buda castle has been reconceived as part of the State's main organization and administration and a tourist destination. Music and other festivals and events are being planned as a way to earn revenues. Hence event spaces are important such as the public space at the centre of the castle and the two major event spaces in the riding hall and the one proposed in the southern wing. Façade reconstructions are intended to create a period image and identity. However, the cumulative impact of all of these reconstruction activities is adverse on the OUV of the property, especially its authenticity. Civil society organizations emphasized during their meeting with the Mission that they had not been consulted on the proposed plans for construction and reconstruction in the Buda castle. A map of the proposed plan of the Buda castle area in Hungarian is in annex.

Among the projects ongoing or proposed is the reconstructed structure for the prime-minister's office and the president's office (both of these are completed); reconstruction of the riding hall including a fully reconstructed large interior space to be used for grand events (ongoing); reconstruction of the guard's building including a period reconstruction of the exterior and a completely contemporary rebuilding of interiors including a restaurant and other spaces; reconstruction of the former Stöckl Stairs; a proposed reconstruction of the former Foreign office where the building has been completely lost; reconstruction of the facades and parts of the interior of the former Ministry of Finance building; reconstruction of the large public open space at hear of the complex in front of the prime-minister's office (ongoing); and a proposed reconstruction of a grand reception room in the southern wing of the Buda castle that lies above a space that was rebuilt in the 1960s and is currently in use; a parking lot at the bottom of the castle will be relocated; the current fortification wall will be moved out slightly so as to make it stronger and to accommodate the reconstructions.

### 4.2 Liget Budapest Park (the City Park)

The project of Liget Budapest Park comprises an entire re-development of the big area of the Városliget Park, including the rehabilitation of the various elements of the park, the restoration and/or the reconstruction of several existing buildings. It also includes the construction of several big-scaled new public buildings (museums etc.). A complete summary of the provided work can be found in the report of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to Budapest on 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was elaborated in January 2011 at a very early state of the project. It was not revised until January 2018, by when most decisions about the different projects had been made.

ICOMOS assessed the first HIA is to be of very limited value. ICOMOS viewed the second HIA to be much extensive in its historical, descriptive and numerical approach. It treats many issues that are not relevant for the assessment of the project's influence on the OUV. It leads to the impression that its authors didn't have the necessary critical distance to the project. Doubtlessly the project has many positive aspects, for instance in issues concerning traffic management and the changes in the design of the green areas. Also, the majority of new or restored or reconstructed buildings is not critical.

ICOMOS view is that the HIA doesn't answer the essential question about the visual impact of the two buildings that are nearest to Heroes Square. The problematic of the visual impact of the new zoological dome and the museum of ethnography (both currently under construction) is not treated in a comprehensible manner although the ICOMOS Advisory Mission 2018 requested verifiable documents. The 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was shown simple photos of the current situation and of the general model that are by no means sufficient for a correct assessment with such planimetric indications. It suspects that trees will hide the new buildings that are of very considerable size and states "Therefore, the visual impact of the new buildings on the Heroes' Square and Andrássy Avenue is not significant" (page 90).

The Mission insists on the correct and scientific manner of establishing a visibility study as mentioned in the Advisory report 2018. (Precise geospatial data of these points and of the project are collected, including a digital terrain model (DGM) and digital surface model (DOM), and reference photos are taken from a tripod on a bright, but cloudy, day with excellent visibility conditions at an eye level of 1.70 m with a focal distance of ±55 mm. Indications of the new buildings are traceably calculated and details of the camera used, focal distance, date, coordinates and altitude are stated.)

The Mission recommends that a visibility study following a scientific and agreed methodology and established by an entirely independent specialist be established immediately. It has to consider and the summer state of trees (with leaves) and the winter state (without leaves). The result has to be submitted immediately to the advisory body and be used to reconsider the height of the museum of ethnography. If, from any point within the property, the building is visible in a relevant extent the height of the building has to be lowered.

### 4.3 High-rise Buildings

The Mission has discussed the question of new high-rise buildings has been under several aspects. On the one hand, the Mission was informed that a newly decided legislation limits the height of buildings to 40 meters; however, the Planning Council has the possibility to permit a height up to 65 meters however, it is not clear on what basis this modification will be accepted by the Planning Council.

For the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting a special regime based on a deepened study is indispensable. It has to define the areas, where no high-rise buildings (i.e. building that exceed the average height of houses in the quarter) are allowed, areas, where a maximum of 40 meters can be accepted and areas where exceptions by the national government can be accorded. The study must be submitted to ICOMOS for review. After approval, it has to be integrated into a plan that is binding without any possibility for exception accorded by local and/or national authorities.

The Mission also examined the case of the MOL campus project. It has to be remembered that, on the last day of the ICOMOS mission 2018, Hungarian authorities have been informed about the serious doubts concerning the compatibility of the planned MOL campus and particularly the height of its tower with the visual impact of the property in its wider setting. In fact, while the usable height is 120m, the visually relevant height of the tower is 146 m, comparably with the height of Gellert hill, the highest natural elevation of Budapest. The Advisory Mission report states that a correct assessment is not possible on the basis of the presented photographs and that a scientifically correct visibility study be established before any decision. It requested that this study be done before any decision.

However, the building permit was delivered two months after the mission took place. Currently, the building is under construction. The appearance of a *fait accompli* cannot be avoided.

The Mission recommends that on the basis of a professional study, submitted to ICOMOS for approval, a plan with compulsory force be established that defines areas without high-rise buildings, areas with a maximum height of 40 m and areas with possible exceptions concerning the height of buildings.

### 4.4 Radetzsky Barracks

The Radetzsky Barracks are situated West to the BemJózsef ter. The boundary of the World Heritage property is in line with its façade and the whole building is to be expected to be located in a future buffer zone to the West of the property. One year ago, a court decision was expected concerning the project of a private investor who intended to demolish the building maintaining the main façade only. The representatives of the Prime Minister confirmed that the project didn't correspond with the intentions of the state's authorities.

However, the Mission was informed that the national protection has since been removed. It could not be justified to the Mission what reasons led to this decision as it will doubtless allow the demolition of the historic building. It is hard to understand, that a legal national protection is just lifted without adequate justification.

Indeed, a new investor has bought the complex and has proposed a project. The Mission was presented a picture of the proposed project that showed that the first part of the building towards the Danube is to be restored (it was it was said in conversation that it would not be preserved inside, but entirely emptied), whilst behind a new building, higher than the existing volume and with glass-facades, be erected.

The Mission recommends that a study of the whole existing complex, including the interiors be made. In the rehabilitation project, at least the interior structures (stair, staircase, floors, main walls) of the Eastern part be maintained. When, on the basis of that study, a project is established it has to be sent to the World Heritage Centre for comment.

### 4.5 Budapest Eye on Erzsébet Square

Obviously, the recommendation included in the report of the ICOMOS mission has been understood. The giant wheel has got a permit for a limited time. This deadline will not be rescheduled (State of Conservation report, page 32). However, the report doesn't mention any exact indication of the expiration and no oral explanation was given to the Mission.

The Mission recommends that the installation of Budapest Eye be dismantled <u>as soon as possible</u>. Precise dates of end of functioning and end of dismantling must be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

### 4.6 Paulay Ede Street

The case of "Paulay Ede utca 52" was raised by an NGO. The building, erected in 1884, consisted of three parts. The Paulay Ede utca is the neighbouring street parallel to Andrássy Avenue. The building was not listed as a national monument. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a permit for demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building was requested. Astonishingly, the permit was delivered already one month later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 – in that short time no profound examination is possible. In what concerns the existing building, the permit was based on a documentation concerning the building, established by a private firm in 2008. It could not be verified by whom the order was placed. The documentation comprises 34 pages; it is in Hungarian and couldn't be understood or evaluated by the Mission. On base of the documentation Heritage Protection authority had already agreed to the permit on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

However, the annexes to the documentation (photographs and plans from different periods) show an interesting historic building. Whilst the neighbouring houses comprise five storeys, Paulay Ede utca 52 has three storeys only, a fact that will be one main reason to replace it. The historic building had the traditional inner courtyard, two beautiful staircases (one of them modified in 1912) and a traditional layout of plans. It's strange that the documentation only refers to the exterior. Apparently, explorations in the interiors have not been made. The project of the replacing building has not been presented to the Mission. It is not possible to assess whether the threats to authentic substance and/or the new construction in its volume and form may affect the OUV.

Anyhow, the case of Paulay Ede utca 52, the demolition of a historic house and the construction of an essentially bigger new house, would have needed information of the World Heritage Centre according to § 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Mission recommends that the State Party be remembered the obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre in time about any their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

### 4.7 MAHART building project

The MAHART building has been built by the Royal Shipping Company of Hungary in secession style in 1913. The building is located on the edge of an urban block overlooking the Danube banks. Whilst the lower floors were occupied by the owner's offices, the upper floors were rented out as apartments.

The project for the deep restructuration includes the entire building block; its inner courtyard is to be covered with a glass-roof. The MAHART building is to become a hotel, partly residences. The project provides to maintain the facades, the entrance hall, the staircase and few walls, but to demolish the other parts of the inner and outer building such as floor structures, walls, façade to the courtyard and the roof. The latter is to be replaced in a traditional section (the former project with flat roofs has been abandoned). The street angle towards the Danube is occupied by a cupola containing a sky-bar.

The project is an example for the development of Budapest inner city. The outside appearance is maintained or (in the case of the cupola) re-proposed. However, the content of the house is changed, its urban scale is not one house anymore, but an entire urban block, and further, the staircase the inner building structure and the façade to the courtyard are demolished. The façade has become just a thin layer covering a modern building. Evidently, this kind of operation leads to an important threat to authenticity.

The Mission concluded, that the project is to be revised on the basis of a deepened analysis of the inner building structures and the existing interior finishing. The aim is to maintain the inner building structures and the backward façade. The Mission recommends that the building analysis and the revised project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comment.

### 4.8 Notification of major restorations, reconstructions or new constructions

The Mission noticed several completed or ongoing works (Opera House, 52 Paulay Ede Street, the glass building on Vörösmartytérand the square itself, and the Balna building)projects, information to the World Heritage Centre as provided in paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines was not given by the State Party in time. That concerns projects for restoration, reconstruction projects for exteriors or interiors replacement of the original with new buildings or new constructions. There is no certitude that the WHC is informed about all relevant changes that could affect the OUV.

Furthermore, the Mission noticed that additional information requested by former missions was not delivered. Projects were continued or even construction was begun without the necessary clarifications being made and submitted.

The Mission recommends that the State Party's politics be remembered the necessity of transmitting information to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner for review.

### 4.9 Storey extensions to buildings within the World Heritage property

The Mission was informed that economical pressure for extensive use of the roofs within the property is still very high. Among many others in the entire property on the its Pest side, the Advisory Mission of 2018 already noted in the lower part of Andrássy Avenue: Andrássy Avenue 5, both corner-buildings to Káldy Gyula Street, corner Dobo Street, corner Székely Mihály Street, both-buildings corners to Dalszínház Street).

No revision of legal regulation of dealing with the roofs has been undertaken till now. Currently, the shape of new roof constructions and its material is not clearly defined.

### 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The World Heritage property "Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue" as a "centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Obuda. One example thereof is the Buda Castle Quarter with its medieval and characteristically Baroque style, which are distinct from the extended and uniquely homogeneous architecture of Pest [...] The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrássy Avenue ('The Avenue') and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realisations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which became widespread in the second part of the 19th century. The scenic view of the banks of the Danube as part of the historic urban landscape is a unique example of the harmonious interaction between human society and a natural environment."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Description of the property from nomination dossier submitted to the World Heritage Centre, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400

Increasingly developed as a tourist destination, the city is now seeing a great pressure for investments, be it by the state or by private investors, that all are realized within short time schedules.

The Government of Hungary invited a Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to Budapest April 29-30, 2019 as a result of the Committee Decision **41COM 7B.46**. The Committee noted with concern that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which might substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Noting that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyse all ongoing and planned interventions, and also urged the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken. The Committee further requested that should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property.

The Mission met with the relevant authorities in Budapest and reviewed the plans, drawings, and documents that the State Party and various agencies put forward in English. The Mission also visited with the Hungarian authorities, a number of places within the property, the buffer zone and some areas outside. The Mission also met with representatives of the local communities and residents of the districts in and around the World Heritage property.

The Mission analysed a number of issues and threats to the property. Many large projects and interventions occur without a clear and comprehensive management plan for the property and its buffer zone or a city development plan for the whole city, though each district seems to follow plan of sorts. Given the number of new constructions in and around the property, completed, ongoing, and proposed, it seems that a number of projects when proposed are not shared with the World Heritage Centre (WHC) for review by the Advisory Bodies in conformation of procedure as per paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines prior to commencing works. A several documents have been submitted to the WHC in Hungarian and hence do not allow for them to be reviewed. The Mission was informed that no single office, person, or authority had an overview of the complete list of all projects ongoing and proposed, in the property and its buffer zone. There is also an absence of a comprehensive management plan and a site manager or authority over the entire property and its buffer zone

In general, construction-permits are delivered without the due processes as detailed in the paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Many proposals have not included detailed plans for major interventions within the property or the buffer zone and for several no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) following the guidelines of ICOMOS have been submitted. Even when HIAs have been prepared, they have not followed international standards, and have not been led by highly qualified contractors who are independent from the investors, and have not contained verifiable analysis when they have been submitted for review by ICOMOS. Adequate studies for assessing visual impact have not been carried out. Special projects development areas have been demarcated and empowered with authority to propose and implement development and restoration works and run programmes in them with a view to the cultural offer and/or financial benefit including through tourism. As a result, a number of new constructions are underway that may have a negative impact on authenticity and the visual impact of the property, within the buffer zone and in its wider setting.

Furthermore, large scale reconstruction work is ongoing at the Buda Castle quarter as part of the Hauszmann Plan that poses a threat to the authenticity of the property's OUV. The approach employed is to reconstruct buildings or parts of it that have been destroyed during World War II or in the communist period to recover an idealized older history. Such reconstruction on a large scale, however, leads to important and cumulative threats to the authenticity of the property. These are compounded by the fact that often façades are maintained whilst the interiors of historical building are replaced. A retro-architecture blurring distinctions between contemporary interventions and historical ones create a fixed, stereotypical and idealized image of the past rather than a rich and layered reading of historical epochs. The Mission was not provided with any overall clear and detailed rationale that could offer a justification for the major interventions that were in progress or planned and which had the potential for highly adverse impact on OUV. As the decisions were made and activities being implemented, the Mission saw no further reflection among the responsible officials on the appropriateness of the approach which is clearly necessary.

Most significantly, the management plan that was registered with the WHC was nominal. The State Party has reported now having identified funds for the preparation of a comprehensive Management Plan that is urgently necessary and has been demanded by the World Heritage Committee for a number of years. A city development plan or master plan for the development of the urban area is also not prepared which poses further challenges to integrating the heritage conservation efforts with urban development. Moreover, as it will take two more years for the Management Plan to be prepared, most of the ongoing constructions will be completed by the time the Management Plan is adopted. A site Manager coordinating the many involved authorities and stressing the importance of authenticity and integrity for the OUV is also urgently needed.

No single office, person, or authority had an overview of the complete list of all projects ongoing and proposed, in the property and its buffer zone. The absence of adequate governance for World Heritage, including a site manager or authority over the entire property and its buffer zone to ensure clear management of the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Without such an office or person, no systematic interactions take place with all the stakeholders of the property and its buffer zone.

In addition, two extensions of the buffer zone (to the North and to the West) have been requested since 2002; they are important for an effective protection of the property. Nothing has been undertaken so far to prepare a proposal for the World Heritage Committee.

Compounded together, the numerous unsolved issues, the blurring of the distinctions between conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction, in addition to the speed of the development work ongoing, collectively and cumulatively impact the authenticity and integrity of the property adversely and puts the OUV of the property in danger. The Mission is convinced that the property has reason to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The scale and scope of the interventions that are impacting adversely on the property are significant. Numerous documents, projects and drawings have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre only in Hungarian which does not allow review and feedback by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and furthermore, HIAs and analysis need to be in conformity with ICOMOS guidelines. Compounded together, the numerous unsolved issues, the blurring of the distinctions between conservation, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction in addition to the speed of the development work ongoing, collectively and cumulatively impact the authenticity and integrity of the property adversely. what is urgently needed is for current work to be halted and alternative approaches to conservation and

development in and around the property and its buffer zone be developed, supported by policies, and possible mitigation measures explored to protect the OUV of the property.

The Missions Recommendations are:

### RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Conservation:**

R5.1 Reorient further development and abandon the general policy of reconstruction 5.1.1 Separate from the recommendations for single buildings, including the general policy to reconstruct entire buildings, parts of them or parts of areas needs to be revised. Given the scale and scope of the interventions that are impacting adversely on the property, current work should be halted and the State Party is recommended, in dialogue with the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, and international experts to develop alternative approaches to conservation and development in and around the property and its buffer zone and explore possible mitigation measures to protect the OUV of the property supported by appropriate policies and conservation plans.

A full inventory of reconstructions planned or thought about in the property and its buffer zones is to be established and submitted to the WHC and the advisory bodies. The list should be accompanied by all illustrative and informative elements in English or French such as such as detailed plans, renderings, and photos of models.

### R5.2 Protect the authenticity of the property

R5.2.1 Processes and procedures for conservation need to be established to ensure that authenticity is maintained.

### **R5.3** Establish clear goals for Conservation

R5.3.1 A clear set of goals needs to be established for the conservation measures and principles for the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.3.2 Clear distinctions between conservation, recovery, restoration, reconstruction, and new construction following international norms and standards need to be defined and adopted.

R5.3.3 Principles and guidelines for the conservation of exteriors and interiors and the rules for adaptive re-use based on international norms and standards must be established.

### **Individual projects:**

### R5.4 Buda Caste Quarter: Hauszmann Plan

R5.4.1 Prior to granting further permits for development/ restoration/reconstruction works, including the reconstruction of the grand reception room in the south part of the Buda Castle and the former foreign office building, and before any decision for permit is granted or works commenced, an HIA (following the guidelines of ICOMOS) needs to be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre along with the detailed designs and plans (in English or French) for review by the Advisory Bodies. A reorientation of the approach to conservation and reconstruction is urgently necessary in line with R5.1 and this revised approach needs to be set out as part of any HIA.

### **R5.5Liget Budapest Park**

R5.5.1 The HIA submitted by the State Party needs to be revised to conform to the ICOMOS Guidance and be based on verifiable data which currently is not the case. The HIA needs to include a study of visual impact following an international standards must be completed immediately and mitigation measures proposed. The study must consider both the summer state (with leaves) and the winter state (without leaves) of trees. The result has to be submitted to the Advisory Body and used to reconsider the height of the Museum of Ethnography. If, from any point within the property, the building is visible in an essential extent, the height of the building has to be consequently lowered.

### **R5.6Radetzsky Barracks**

R 5.6.1 A study of the whole existing complex, including the interiors must be made. In the proposed project, at least the interior structures (stair, staircase, floors, main walls) of the Eastern part should be maintained. Any concrete project is to be submitted to the WHC.

### R5.70ther major projects:

R5.7.1The installation of the Budapest Eye must be dismantled as soon as possible and the precise dates of the end of its functioning and the end of dismantling be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

R5.7.2The revised project for the MAHART building project, and the respective HIA, together with a professional building analysis, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to building permit being issued.

R5.7.3 For 52 Paulay Ede Street, and other ongoing developments, the detailed plans and drawings must be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review at the earliest. HIAs (including mitigation measures) must be carried out at the earliest.

R5.7.4 Former Finance Ministry building. Before any decision for permit is granted or works commenced, an HIA (following the guidelines of ICOMOS) needs to be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

### **Management Plan and Urban Planning:**

### R5.8 Establish a comprehensive Management Plan

R5.8.1 While many of the Districts of Budapest seem to have their own management plan for the conservation of historic structures, an updated and comprehensive management plan for the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone is urgently necessary. A new management plan has been envisaged for some years now but not yet prepared.

R5.8.2. The new management plan should be developed in line with the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

R5.8.3 The current proposal is to prepare a new management plan over the next two years. However, much of the ongoing and proposed development works will be completed in two years time. Hence adopting a new/ revised management plan at that point will already be too late for the large-scale interventions ongoing.

R5.8.4 The management plan needs to contain all elements normally requested; it must establish where and what kind of exterior and interior reconstruction is acceptable and provide guidance to private property owners.

### R5.9 Integrate the Management Plan with city development plan or Master Plan

R5.9.1 The management plan needs to be coordinated with the city development plan of the whole city including all districts in the property and its buffer zone, not just for the individual districts.

R5.9.2 All proposed development works at the city level including major areas of investment and tourism as well as proposed roads, bridges, mass transit, and other infrastructure need to be established in this reworked city development plan.

## R5.10Define the acceptable heights of buildings with the help of digital or physical 3D models of the city as well as skyline studies

R5.10.1 The acceptable heights for construction in different parts of the city must be established and fixed to mitigate any negative impact on the OUV of the World Heritage property.

R5.10.2 Zones where high-rise building of the two legally possible heights could be developed without a negative impact on the integrity of the World Heritage property must be identified.

R5.10.3 The impact of high-rise buildings on the visual integrity of the World Heritage property should be assessed on a scientific and verifiable basis.

### R5.11Establish comprehensive guidelines

R5.11.1 Detailed guidelines, consistent across all the districts, must be established for new construction within the World Heritage property and buffer zone. These guidelines have to include directives on loft-extensions on top of the buildings in the property and the buffer zones.

R5.11.2 The guidelines may vary for different parts of the World Heritage property but need to be clearly spelled out.

### R5.12Prepare complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA)

R5.12.1 HIA following ICOMOS guidelines must be carried out for every project that may have an impact on the OUV. Contractors for HIAs must be independent from investors. HIAs must be validated by ICOMOS prior to giving permission for conservation or development works and, consequently, prior to any work commencing.

#### **R5.12Extend Buffer Zone**

R5.12.1 The definition of the buffer zone boundaries needs to be completed (Margit Island and Buffer zone to the West) and Boundary modification request submitted to the World Heritage Committee at the earliest.

#### Legislation:

## R5.13 Halt the delivery of permits for any new developments or conservation works within the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.13.1 Until the adoption of a management plan and building guidelines no building permit should be delivered. A Decision related to this was already adopted in the 41COM. However, the conservation and development works have continued regardless, in the meantime, they have received all necessary permits. This includes halting permits for the construction of lofts and additional floors.

### **R5.14** Review the permits for ongoing works

R5.14.1The permits for ongoing works need to be reviewed. Mitigation measures should be implemented considering these recommendations before proceeding to complete the works.

# R5.15Ensure due processes for evaluation and regulation of conservation/restoration works proposed

R5.15.1 Clear procedures and processes should be established and enforced throughout the property for all construction work to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for all projects, be they small interventions or larger enterprises of developers and major development initiatives.

R5.15.2 The establishment of special project areas such as the Liget project and the Buda Castle project should not result in the evaluation and regulation of conservation/works being handed over to the project responsibility. Each project of the development companies should have to go through the same assessment and regulation as other projects in the World Heritage property and buffer zone to ensure the protection of the OUV.

R5.15.3 Even as the development companies move forward with great speed, the processes related to the World Heritage Committee such as conducting HIAs, notifying the WHC in advance of commencing the project (in line with paragraph 172), and awaiting the review of ICOMOS before delivering permits or proceeding with construction, should not be overlooked.

## R5.16 Establish consistent regulations throughout all the districts on matters such as heights and addition of lofts

R5.16.1 A professional study including HIAs and the examination of the visual integrity should be undertaken and submitted to ICOMOS for approval. It should lead to a plan with compulsory force that defines within the wider setting areas without high-rise buildings, areas with a maximum height as determined by the Skyline study that would help determine the acceptable heights for interventions in the historic city and its wider surroundings.

R5.16.2 Clear regulation should be established concerning height, shape, visibility from the ground-level, materials etc. No building license for change of roof should be delivered before the regulation is submitted to the World Heritage Centre and assessed by the advisory body.

#### **Engagement with Local Communities:**

#### R5.17Regularly consult with residents, local communities, and NGOs

R5.17.1 Regular consultations with local communities, residents and NGO's are necessary to be carried out at various stages of major projects from their initial concept to their final launch and their concerns addressed. Many local people and NGOs do not feel they are consulted or that their voice is heard nor are their concerns and priorities addressed in the projects and their outcomes.

#### ManagementSystem:

# R5.18Establish a single Site Manager or other authority responsible for entire World Heritage property and buffer zone

R5.18.1 The institutional structure needs to be organized to ensure that a single authority has clear oversight and control over all the conservation and development activities within the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

R5.18.2 This authority needs to maintain a full inventory of all the conservation and development works ongoing and proposed, within the World Heritage property and buffer zone and ensure their compliance with established procedures and regulations.

# R5.19Streamline and make consistent institutional processes for granting permits for construction and conservation works

R5.19.1 The processes for granting permits for conservation and development work needs to be streamlined and made consistent across all seven of the 23 Districts of Budapest city that are part of the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

## **Commitment to the World Heritage and Advisory Bodies:**

## R5.20 Implement Recommendations of previous Advisory and Reactive Monitoring Missions.

R5.20.1 Previous missions to Budapest in recent years have resulted in a number of recommendations – many of them around the same issues. Implementing these recommendations is essential.

#### 6 ANNEXES

#### 6.1 Annex 1 -Composition of the Mission team

The Mission was composed by a representative of the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO,

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#### 6.2 Annex 2 -Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

#### **Brief synthesis**

This stretch of the Danube has been the location of human settlement since the Palaeolithic. It was the site of the Roman city of Aquincum, situated to the north of the inscribed property which comprises parts of two originally quite separate cities: Buda on the spur on the right bank and Pest on the plain on the left bank. Pest was the first medieval urban centre, devastated in 1241-2. A few years later the castle of Buda was built on a rocky spur on the right bank by King Bela IV. Thereafter, the city reflected the history of the Hungarian monarchy. After the end of the Turkish occupation, recovery did not really begin until the 18th century. In the 19th century, the city's role as a capital was enhanced by the foundation of the Hungarian Academy, housed from 1862 in a neo- renaissance palace, and by the construction of the imposing neo-gothic Parliament building (1884–1904). W.T. Clark's suspension bridge, finalised in 1849, symbolised the reunification of Buda and Pest, which did not actually come about until 1873. The symbol of the development of the city as a modern metropolis was the radial Andrássy Avenue, which was included in the property in 2002. From 1872, the Avenue radically transformed the urban structure of Pest, together with the construction of the European continent's first underground railway beneath it in 1893-6.

As a centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, Budapest is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Óbuda. One example thereof is the Buda Castle Quarter with its medieval and characteristically Baroque style, which are distinct from the extended and uniquely homogeneous architecture of Pest (with its historicising and art nouveau styles) which is characterised by outstanding public buildings and fitted into the ringed-radial city structure. All this is organized into a unity arising from the varied morphological characteristics of the landscape and the Danube, the two banks of which are linked by a number of bridges. The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrássy Avenue ('The Avenue') and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realisations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which

became widespread in the second part of the 19th century. The scenic view of the banks of the Danube as part of the historic urban landscape is a unique example of the harmonious interaction between human society and a natural environment characterised by varied morphological conditions (Gellért Hill with the Citadel and the Buda Hills partly covered with forests, the broad Danube river with its islands and Pest's flat terrain rising with a slight gradient).

Criterion (ii): Aquincum played an essential role in the diffusion of Roman architectural forms in Pannonia, then in Dacia. Buda Castle played an essential role in the diffusion of Gothic art in the Magyar region from the 14th century. In the reign of Matthias Corvinus, Buda was an artistic centre comparable, due to its influence, to that of Cracow. As a result of the unification of Pest, Buda and Óbuda in 1872-73, Budapest became once more a significant centre in the second part of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century due to the amount and quality of heritage built during those periods. It was a centre which absorbed, integrated and disseminated outstanding and progressive European influences of urbanism and of architecture as well as modern technological developments such as the Millennium Underground Railway, built under Andrássy Avenue, the first in Continental Europe, all of which was in line with its role as a metropolis.

**Criterion (iv)**: Buda Castle is an architectural ensemble which, together with the nearby old district (the Buda Castle Quarter) illustrates two significant periods of history which were separated by an interval corresponding to the Turkish invasion. The Parliament is also an outstanding example of a great official building on a par with those of London, Munich, Vienna and Athens, exemplifying the eclectic architecture of the 19th century, whilst at the same time symbolising the political function of the second capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Andrássy Avenue (1872–1885) and the Millenary Underground Railway (1893 – 1896) are representative examples of the implementation of planning solutions associated with the latest technical facilities of the day to meet the requirements of an emerging modern society. Architecturally, the Avenue has great integrity in its eclectic, neo-renaissance buildings.

#### Integrity

The delimitation of the extended property meets the requirements of integrity, since it includes the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and their historical and structural role is preserved in the urban fabric. Despite the ruinous or missing buildings in certain parts and especially in the Buda Castle Quarter, and despite the reconstructions within the panorama of the Danube banks following World War II, the overall integrity of the property is sustained. In order to reinforce integrity, it is justified to review the delimitation on the Buda side as well as the inclusion of Margaret Island and the extension of the protected area up to the Grand Boulevard (Nagykörút). The original form of Andrássy Avenue with its buildings has been preserved reasonably well in terms of its conception its relation to the surrounding urban environment, as well as the building fabric. Attention is also given to the preservation and appropriate design of small elements that form part of the street furniture. There are some problems, for example, in the physical condition of the buildings: wooden roof structures have suffered from humidity and metal structures have corroded, requiring maintenance and repair. There have also been some changes in the occupation, offices tending to replace the earlier residential use, which is a common problem in central urban areas. There have been problems with regard to development in the setting of the World Heritage property, both in terms of demolition and inappropriate new structures. Other challenges are the insurance of heritagefriendly traffic management and the mitigation of climate change impact on the natural and built environment (for example extreme water-levels of the Danube, air-pollution and deterioration of limestone structures).

#### **Authenticity**

In its attributes and the sum of its constituent parts, the property preserves the defining characters of the architectural heritage created by consecutive layers of historical periods. The restoration and partial reconstruction of the Buda Castle Quarter after World War II, carried out mainly between 1960 and 1980, as well as the degree of authenticity of the surviving historicising buildings are in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. The majority of the replaced buildings in the panorama of the Danube banks conform to their original scales. The big public buildings, such as the Parliament, the Opera House, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Market Hall, have also retained their original functions. Three of the four bridges across the Danube situated in the property have been authentically renovated. The 20th century design of the new Elisabeth Bridge fits in well into the line of bridges preserving its authentic image. Andrássy Avenue, with its trees alongside and its environment, preserve its historicity in its conception and constituent parts. The majority of public buildings have preserved their original function, however, the transformation of residential buildings into offices is an unfavourable trend. The renovated Underground Railway plays a functional role in the city infrastructure. The stations under the Avenue have retained their original features, while those in the City Park have been changed from their original position above-ground and are now built under the surface which represents a certain degree of compromise with regard to the authenticity of the railway. One of the guarantees of the property"s authenticity lies in the authentic conservation of the historic urban structure and the buildings in the buffer zone.

#### **Protection and management requirements**

The World Heritage property with its buffer zone has been legally protected as a historic monuments area since 1965; this protected area was enlarged in 2005 - after the extension of the property in 2002 – under the Act on the Protection of Cultural Heritage. A great number of historic buildings as well as the bridges and the embankments are also individually protected. The proposed revision of the boundaries of the property is prompted not only by decisions of the World Heritage Committee, but also by recent evolution in the appreciation of the heritage values of the property and its surroundings, as well as by the appearance of new threats. The property and its buffer zone lie within nine administrative districts of Budapest, another municipality being that of the Capital of Budapest itself. These ten municipalities concerned have not yet established an overall management body. Architectural Planning Juries, both at the level of the districts and at the level of the Capital of Budapest, facilitate high quality architectural developments in accordance with the values of the property. The Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management is the World Heritage Management Body. Based on the national World Heritage Act of 2011, the state of conservation of the property, as well as threats and preservation measures will be regularly monitored and reported to the National Assembly, while the management plan will be reviewed at least every seven years. Once finalised and approved, the management plan and the management body provide transparent governance arrangements with clear responsibilities, where different interests can manifest themselves and where the institutional framework and methods for the cooperation of the different stakeholders are available.

A management requirement is the establishment of an urban conservation and development plan for the buffer zone, fully respecting the principal architectural and urban values of each quarter with a strict enforcement. In a complementary manner, additional funding (for example tax incentives and grants) has to be sought, and in a dynamic manner, private building investment has to be directed to rehabilitation operations and restoration rather than demolition and reconstruction. Due to the complexity of the property and its context, special attention has to be paid to developing appropriate monitoring tools and mechanisms as well as to their proper application.

## 6.3 Annex 3 - Agenda of the Mission

6.3 <b>Anne</b>	6.3 Annex 3 -Agenda of the Mission			
8:30 – 9:30	2019 Monday  Official welcome of the Mission	Mr. BenceTuzson, state secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Zsolt Visy Dr., ministerial commissioner, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. GáborFöldváryDr., ministerial commissioner, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. ZsoltFüleky, Deputy State Secretary for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office		
10:00 – 11:30	Buda Castle – site visit	Mr. ZsoltFüleky, Deputy State Secretary for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. SándorFinta, deputy CEO, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt., Ms. EszterKreiter, Scientific and Archeological Director, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt., Ms. BiankaKasza, senior project manager, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt., Mr. Gergely Nagy Dr., President of ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee, Mr. TamásFejérdyDr., Honorary President of ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee		
11:30 – 12:30	Investments of Buda Castle	Mr. ZsoltFüleky, Deputy State Secretary for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. SándorFinta, deputy CEO, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt., Mr. ErnőKálmán DLA (building of the Ministry of Finance), Mr. AladárCsontos, development director, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt., Ms. EszterKreiter, Scientific and Archeological Director, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt.		
14:00	Stop at Radetzky- barrack	Mr. ZsoltFüleky, Deputy State Secretary for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. JózsefKolossa, head of department, Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, Deputy State Secretariat for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office		
14:30- 15:30	MOL Campus project	Mr. ZsoltFüleky, deputy state secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. JózsefKolossa, head of department, Department of		

Urban and Spatial Planning, Deputy State Secretariat

for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office,
Mr. SzabolcsFerencz I., executive director MOL Magyar

Olaj- ésGázipariNyrt,

Mr. ZoltánBakonyi, technical director of the project

16:00-17:30

## Mr. ZsoltFüleky, deputy state secretary, Prime Minister's Office,

Mr. JózsefKolossa, head of department, Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, Deputy State Secretariat for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office.

Architectural questions of the city centre

Ms. AdriennSági, Head of Unit, Chief Architect Office, Mayor's Office of Belváros-Lipótváros 5th district of the Municipality of Budapest,

Mr. IstvánMatus, chief architect, Mayor's Office of Terézváros 6th District of the Municipality of Budapest, Office of Chief Architect and Settlement Development, Mr. FerencTóth, head of department, Capital Government Office of Budapest, Architectural, Heritage,

Authorities, Education and Legal Compliance

Supervision Department

17:30-19:30

## Mr. ZsoltFüleky, deputy state secretary, Prime Minister's Office.

Walk in the city centre

Mr. JózsefKolossa, head of department, Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, Deputy State Secretariat for Architecture and Construction, Prime Minister's Office

## 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 Tuesday

8:30- 9:00	Management Plan	Mr. Attila Győr, head of office, VárkapitányságNonprofitZrt.
09:30- 10:30	Liget Budapest Project	Mr. Attila Sághi, technical deputy CEO, VárosligetZrt., Mr. MiklósPersányiProf.Dr. director general, Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden
10:30- 11:30	Városliget site visit	Mr. Attila Sághi, technical deputy CEO, VárosligetZrt., Mr. MiklósPersánviProf Dr. director general, Budanest

Mr. MiklósPersányiProf.Dr. director general, Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden,

Mr. IstvánMatus, chief architect, Mayor's Office of Terézváros 6<sup>th</sup> District of the Municipality of Budapest, Office of Chief Architect and Settlement Development

11:30- 12:30	Walk along Andrássy Avenue	Mr. IstvánMatus, chief architect, Mayor's Office of Terézváros 6 <sup>th</sup> District of the Municipality of Budapest, Office of Chief Architect and Settlement Development
13:00- 14:00 15:00- 15:15	Lunch MAHART building	Mr. ZsoltFüleky, deputy state secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mr. AndrásElekes, project manager
15:20- 17:30	Meeting with civil organisations	Mr. GyulaBándiDr., Deputy-Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudsman for Future Generations, Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, MártonffyMiklós Chief architect, Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Budapest, Civil organisations in order of speech: Clean Air Action Group, ÓVÁS! Association, Foundation for Budapest World Heritage, Castle Circle of Friends Association, Buda Castle Protectors Civil Organisation, ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee, Ligetvédők ("Park Protectors"), Association of Hungarian Architects, ÉrtéktérképKft.,Greenpeace Hungary, Hungarian Society for Urban Planning (did not give a speech), Porta Speciosa Association (did not give a speech), Imagine Budapest Association (did not give a speech)
18:00- 20:30	Danube banks, city centre, buildings of Buda Castle	

## 6.4 Annex 4 -Photos and illustrations



Empty plot, reconstruction of former Foreign Affairs Ministry planned©Bernhard Furrer



Former Army Headquarters, reconstruction of further stroreys planned
© Bernhard Furrer



Buda Castle, several interior reconstructions planned © Bernhard Furrer



Commercial building on Vörösmartytér, highly problematic intervention
© Bernhard Furrer



MAHART project, maintaining the Façade, new interiors and roof
© Bernhard Furrer



MOL campus project, total height 146 m, currently under construction
© Bernhard Furrer





Radetzsky Barracks, façade towards the Danube © Bernhard Furrer

Meeting with civil organisations © Bernhard Furrer



The Mission visiting the Buda Castle with the accompanying group © Bernhard Furrer

From right to left:

Mr. Tamás Fejérdy Dr., ICOMOS Hungary Mr. Gergely Nagy Dr., ICOMOS Hungary Ms. Anikó Szelle and Ms. Erika Szomor, interpreters

Mr. Zsolt Füleky, Deputy State Secretary Mr. Sándor Finta, deputy CEO, Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt.

Mr. Bernhard Furrer

Ms. Jyoti Hosagrahar

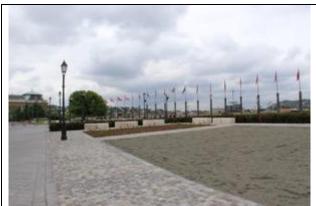
Ms. Bianka Kasza, senior project manager,

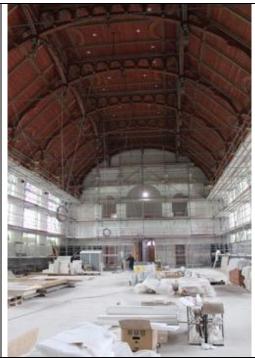
Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt. Ms. Eszter Kreiter, Scientific and Archeological Director Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt.

Ms. Kinga Bartha, head of unit, Unit for World Heritage

Affairs, Prime Minister's Office

Ms. Anna Puskás, policy officer, Unit for World Heritage Affairs, Prime Minister's Office





Buda Castle, cleared area in front of the Prime-Minister's office © Jyoti Hosagrahar

Buda Castle, ongoing reconstruction work © Jyoti Hosagrahar



Buda Castle, ongoing reconstruction work © Jyoti Hosagrahar



Buda Castle, Riding Hall ongoing reconstruction work

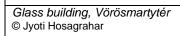


Balna building on the riverfront © Jyoti Hosagrahar



Vörösmartytérreconstruction © Jyoti Hosagrahar







Plan of Liget square redevelopment





Rennovated interior of exhibition hall showing reconstructed historical entrance way and entirely modern exposition space

© Jyoti Hosagrahar





Reconstructed interior of museum © Jyoti Hosagrahar

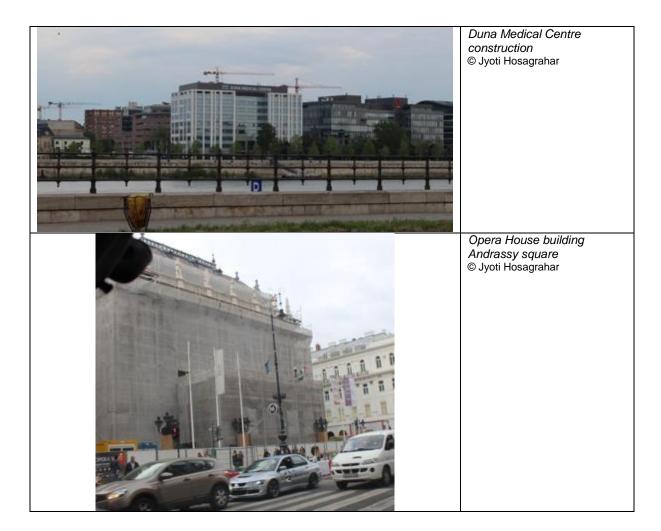
Reconstructed house beginning of Andrassy street © Jyoti Hosagrahar



Guidebook showing residents how to reconstruct facades on Andrassy street
© Jyoti Hosagrahar



Reconstructed house on Andrassy street © Jyoti Hosagrahar







*Marat building* © Jyoti Hosagrahar





Finance ministry building © Jyoti Hosagrahar

# 6.5 Annex 5 - List of previous Committee Decisions, State of Conservation Reports and Periodic Reports.

## **Overview of decisions**

2017	41COM 7B.46 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)
2015	39COM 7B.79 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)
2013	37COM 8E - Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value
2013	37COM 7B.76 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)
2011	35COM 7B.95 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400 bis)
2009	33COM 7B.107 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400 and 400 bis)
2008	32COM 7B.94 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400 and 400 bis)
2008	32COM 8D - Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes by States Parties in response to the restrospective inventory
2003	27COM 8C.2 - Changes to Names of Existing Properties in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia
2002	26COM 23.10 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary)
2002	26COM 23.11 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary)
2002	26COM 23.12 - Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary)
1992	16COM VIII - SOC: Budapest, the Banks of the Danube (Hungary)
1992	16BUR VI.59 - State of conservation
1987	Report of the 11th Session of the Committee
1987	11COM VIIA - Inscription: Budapest, the banks of the Danube with the district of Buda Castle (Hungary)

## 41 COM (Krakow, Poland / 2 - 12 July 2017)

## **Background Information**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List. 1987

Criteria: (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: N/A

Previous Committee Decisions: see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents/

International Assistance: Requests approved: 0; Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/assistance/">http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/assistance/</a>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided: 800 million HUF (ca. 2.7 million EUR) EU support for the "Street of Culture" project

#### Previous monitoring missions:

March 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2007: ICOMOS Advisory mission; February 2013: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports:

- Demolition and inappropriate development in the buffer zone known as the 'Jewish Quarter'
- Inappropriate use of public areas and street amenities
- Lack of conservation of residential housing in the area inscribed as World Heritage
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (increased traffic volume)

Illustrative material: see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/

### Current conservation issues:

On 2 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the executive summary of which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents/. Progress on a number of issues regarding conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented in the report as follows:

- Information concerning revised institutional and legal framework for the World Heritage, as well as the current status of the Management Plan of the property and the strategy for the extension of its buffer zone:
- Detailed information regarding regulations and rules for concluding agreements by the Municipalities with partners (a Partnership Plan) established in order to prevent serious deterioration of architectural and urban coherence;
- Information about a system of Budapest Metropolitan Building Renovation Grants and District grants;
- Reports regarding several completed, on-going and planned projects, including: the Royal Garden Bazaar project, the Kossuth Lajos Square renovation project and the Liget Budapest project, the National Hauszmann Plan (projects in the area of the Buda Castle Quarter), the Pest embankment, the former Radetzky barracks, the planned temporary sporting structures, RAK-PARK project (renovation of the section of downtown Pest along the Danube between Kossuth Square and Fővám Square) and the Hospitaller's Order Hospital project;
- Numerous Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) submitted for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, amounting to thousands of pages, much in Hungarian.

The report also foreshadows potential additional developments related to the State Party's bid to host the Summer Olympics in 2024, noting that in May 2016, the State Party provided notice of its intention to authorize constructions within property Budapest, on the banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andràssi Avenue, for the purposes of Olympic venues, entertainment and social facilities and temporary changes.

In February 2017, the State Party submitted additional detailed information to the previous report submitted in June 2016 regarding proposals for an extensive campaign of restoration/reconstruction works within the Buda Castle Quarter - the 'National Hauszmann Plan'. The areas affected by the Plan include the Royal Palace district and Saint George square, the Civic Town, Szentháromság Square, Viennese Gate, Erdélyi Bastion, some areas beyond the castle and the Castle Quarter's defensive constructions.

On 4 May 2017, the State Party also submitted clarifications regarding the planned skyscraper in the District 11th of Budapest.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

In accordance with the Governmental Resolution 1312/2016 (VI. 13.), the Gyula National Heritage Preservation and Property Management Center, operated as a mid-level governing body for heritage preservation, ceased to exist on 1 January 2017. Its tasks will be taken over by several legal successor organizations, and it is expected that the World Heritage tasks will come under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office.

The new public procurement process regarding the elaboration of the Management Plan, inducing possible extension of the buffer zone, which will be conducted by the Prime Minister's Office, is expected to take place in 2017. While a moratorium on the issuing of permits for demolitions and construction within the property was not introduced, the State Party advised that the so-called ban on alterations exists or existed in several districts of the city.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to finalize the Management Plan of the property, as well as to implement all relevant measures and plans, defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, to support the appropriate implementation of its decisions in order to prevent any threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In June 2016, the State Party submitted a briefing report on proposals for an extensive campaign of restoration/reconstruction works within the Buda Castle Quarter - the 'National Hauszmann Plan'. The areas affected by the Plan include the Royal Palace district and Saint George square, the Civic Town, Szentháromság Square, Viennese Gate, Erdélyi Bastion, some areas beyond the castle and the Castle Quarter's defensive constructions. In view of the number and variety of the planned interventions, ranging from the architectural restoration of monuments and reconstruction of buildings, to contemporary interventions and urban infrastructure projects, the State Party has invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission. The mission shall review and analyze all the documentation for all revised, planned, ongoing or implemented projects submitted by the State Party, such as completed Royal Garden Bazaar project, completed Kossuth Square development project, modified Liget Budapest project, RAK-PARK project and National Hauszmann Plan for the Buda Castle Quarter, developments proposed as part of the 2024 Summer Olympics bid, including all HIAs.

On 13 December 2016, the Secretariat transmitted to the State Party, for comments, information concerning a high-rise building construction received from a third party. The State Party clarifications of 3 May 2017 are noted, and in particular that in December 2016, the Assembly of the Municipality of Budapest had modified the setting regulation of

Budapest to allow buildings up to 120 metre high in the 11th District. The Prime Minister's Office responsible for the protection of cultural heritage - including World Heritage –does not consider that this revision properly reflects World Heritage rules and is also not in favor of the specific proposed high rise construction for the adverse impact it would have on the cityscape. So far, no request for building permission has been requested.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party, should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property. Meanwhile, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects.

Decision: 41 Com 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.79, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
- 3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts to prevent any loss of authenticity and integrity due to the planned developments in the property or its buffer zone which could constitute a threat to the property;
- 4. Nonetheless express concern at the modification to the setting regulations of Budapest approved by the Municipality of Budapest in December 2016 to allow tall buildings up to 120 metre height in the 11th District, part of the wider setting of the property, which would adversely impact on World Heritage cityscape and protected views, and urges the State Party to consider how World Heritage protection can take precedent over this regulation;
- 5. Reiterates its request that the State Party finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, as well as a proposal for enlargement of the buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 6. <u>Notes with concern</u> that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which may substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- 7. Noting that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyze all ongoing and planned interventions, recommends that this mission take place by end of 2017 and also urges the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken;
- 8. Should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, <u>also requests</u> the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property, in light of the conclusion of the analysis by the Advisory mission;
- Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

39 COM (Bonn, Germany / 28 June - 8 July 2015)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,
- 2. Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.76, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
- 3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts and secure the necessary resources to ensure that no demolition, inappropriate development or deterioration of historic buildings which could constitute a threat to the property, occur in the property and its buffer zone;
- 4. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 5. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to continue the work on the proposed enlargement of the buffer zone;
- 6. <u>Notes</u> that the State Party has completed the Royal Garden Bazaar project and the Kossuth Square development project within the property and <u>requests</u> the State Party to provide a detailed report on the implementation of these projects;
- 7. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to submit the final designs and plans for the Liget Budapest project for evaluation by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the project;
- 8. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the remaining recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- 9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

### **37 COM (Phnom Penk, Cambodia / 17 – 27 June 2013)**

Decision: 37 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.95, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the recent withdrawal of demolition and development schemes in the Jewish quarter and Becsi Street but notes with concern the deteriorating condition of existing historic buildings;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the new World Heritage legislation that took effect on 1 January 2012, and the statutory underpinning of World Heritage management plans;
- 5. <u>Also notes</u> the reorganization and enhancement of administration of World Heritage properties protection both at the national and at the municipal level;
- 6. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue the work of preparation of the management plan and management structure for the property and its buffer zone, and the proposed enlargement of the buffer zone:

- 7. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to implement the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission by establishing stringent controls over applications for new development within the property and buffer zone;
- 8. <u>Further notes</u> the details of proposed developments in the property and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to supply the World Heritage Centre with details of the Royal Garden project, detailed reports concerning soils, geology and hydrology in order to underpin the project at Kossuth Square; and details of the proposed new Museum Park as soon as design work is completed, with Heritage Impact Assessments, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- 9. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## 35 COM (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters / 19 – 29 June 2011)

Decision: 35 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-11/35COM/7B,
- 2. Recalling Decision 33 COM 7B.107 adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
- 3. Notes the reduction in demolition permits in the so-called Jewish quarter;
- 4. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on progress being made regarding the 'Street of Culture' initiative that aims to act as a model for sustainable development of this area;
- 5. <u>Also notes with extreme concern</u> the major development proposal in the buffer zone in Pest adjacent to the property boundary that would result in the demolition of one side of Bécsi and urges the State Party to use all means necessary to halt this demolition;
- 6. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed regarding ongoing developments planned for Bécsi Street and for Heroes Square and that procedures for the Heritage Impact Assessments on Outstanding Universal Value are followed for all steps of these development proposals;
- 7. Recognises the work by the State Party to enable and enact a new World Heritage Bill by the beginning of 2012 and also requests that a copy of the document be sent to the World Heritage Centre on its promulgation;
- 8. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to finalise the revision of the property management plan and its management organisation as soon as possible, following the promulgation of the new Bill:
- 9. <u>Welcomes</u> the in-principle decision reached at a national level for the incorporation of Margit Island into the property buffer zone and <u>also urges</u> the State Party to bring this initiative into action through the formal procedures of the Committee;
- 10. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess progress in the implementation of all necessary measures in compliance with the World Heritage Committee's decisions, prior to its 37th session in 2013;
- 11. <u>Requests moreover</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

### 33 COM (Seville, Spain / 22 - 30 June 2019)

Decision: 33 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7B,
- 2. Recalling Decision 32 COM 7B.94, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the specific measures undertaken to re-examine demolition permits and promote a fund for rehabilitation, and urges the State Party to continue with its vigilance in preventing further losses and inappropriate development in the buffer zone of the property;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the various strategic measures being planned, in particular the revision of the management plan, the establishment of a management body, the reassessment of the buffer zone, the assessment of the relationship between the property and the buffer zone, and the drafting of a national World Heritage Bill;
- 5. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a progress report on the issues above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.

## 32 COM (Quebec City, Canada / 2 – 10 July 2008)

Decision: 32 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7B,
- 2. Recalling Decisions **26 COM 23.10/11/12** and **27 COM 8C.2**, adopted at its 26th (Budapest, 2002) and 27th (UNESCO, 2003) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Expresses its utmost concern</u> regarding the ongoing demolition of old buildings of great architectural and urban quality in the buffer zone of the inscribed property, particularly in the "Jewish quarter";
- 4. <u>Also expresses its grave concern</u> regarding the reconstruction, in their place, of contemporary buildings of questionable quality that profoundly transform the architectural and urban value of this quarter;
- 5. Requests the State Party to act, without delay, to:
- a) re-examine, case by case, the demolition permits already granted with a view to equity with the holders of permits already granted, but giving priority to the conservation of the existing built heritage;
- b) consider establishing an urban conservation and development plan for the buffer zone, fully respecting the principal architectural and urban values of each quarter, and for which enforcement would be stricter than it is at present in each quarter;
- c) seek additional funding (for example tax incentives, grants) and in a dynamic manner, direct private building investment to rehabilitation operations and restoration rather than demolition and reconstruction;
- 6. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to undertake archaeological work to identify the physical traces of the ancient ghetto and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the urban situation in the "Jewish quarter" and on conservation measures in force.

Decision 32 COM 8D

TheWorldHeritageCommittee,

- 1. HavingexaminedDocumentWHC-08/32.COM/8D,
- 2. <u>Recalling Decisions</u>**30COM11A.2**and**31COM11A.2**,adoptedatits30th(Vilnius, 2006)and31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessionsrespectively,
- 3. Recalls that, as decided at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) by Decision **31 COM 11A.2**, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will not be able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitation of such properties as inscribed is unclear;
- 4. <u>Congratulates</u>StatesPartiesintheEuropeanRegionandtheStatesPartiesofEgypt, MoroccoandTunisiaontheexcellentworkaccomplishedinthe clarificationofthe delimitationoftheir WorldHeritagepropertiesandthanks themfortheireffortsto improve thecredibilityoftheWorldHeritageList,
- 5. <u>Takes note</u> of the clarifications of propertyboundaries and sizes provided by the following States Parties in the European and Arab Regions in response to the Retrospective Inventory, aspresented in the Annex of Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*:
- Armenia: Monasteriesof Haghpat and Sanahin;
- Austria: Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg; Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn; Hallstatt-Dachstein-Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape;
- Belgium: Flemish Béguinages;
- Bulgaria: Boyana Church; Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak; Rila Monastery; Ancient City of Nessebar;
- Croatia: Old City of Dubrovnik; Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian; Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the Historic Centre of Poreč;
- Czech Republic: Historic Centre of Telč; Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora; Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape; Gardens and Castle at Kroměříž;
- Denmark: Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church; Roskilde Cathedral;
- Egypt: Memphis and its Necropolis the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur; Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis; Nubian Monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae; Historic Cairo; Abu Mena; Saint Catherine Area;
- Estonia: Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn;
- Germany: Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square; Castles
  of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl; Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin; Town
  of Bamberg;
- Greece: Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae; Mount Athos; Medieval City of Rhodes; Archaeological Site of Mystras; Delos;
- Hungary: Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue; Old Village of Hollókö and its Surroundings; Millenary Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment; Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (presented jointly with Slovakia);
- Ireland: Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne; Skellig Michael;
- Italy: Historic Centre of San Gimignano; City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto; Historic Centre of Siena; Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta; The trulliofAlberobello; EarlyChristian MonumentsofRavenna; Historic Centre oftheCity ofPienza:Residencesof RoyalHouseofSavoy;Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua; Portovenere, Cinque Terre,and theIslands (Palmaria, Tinoand Tinetto);CostieraAmalfitana;Archaeologicalarea ofAgrigento; SuNuraxi di Barumini; Archaeological AreaandthePatriarchal BasilicaofAquileia;
- Latvia:HistoricCentreofRiga;
- Luxembourg:CityofLuxembourg:itsOldQuartersandFortifications;
- Morocco: Medina of Marrakesh; Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou; Archaeological Site of Volubilis;
- Poland:Cracow's Historic Centre; Historic Centre of Warsaw; Old City of Zamość; Medieval Townof Torún; Castleof the Teutonic Order in Malbork;

- Portugal:MonasteryofBatalha;CulturalLandscapeofSintra;PrehistoricRock-Art Sitesin theCôaValley;
- Romania:DanubeDelta;
- Slovakia:HistoricTownofBanskáŠtiavnicaandtheTechnicalMonumentsinits Vicinity;SpišskýHradanditsAssociatedCulturalMonuments;Vlkolínec;Cavesof AggtelekKarstandSlovakKarst (presentedjointlywithHungary);
- Spain:Garajonay National Park;
- Tunisia: IchkeulNational Park;
- Ukraine: Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-PecherskLavra;
- UnitedKingdom:DurhamCastleandCathedral;IronbridgeGorge;Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites; Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd; Westminster Palace, WestminsterAbbeyandSaintMargaret'sChurch; Canterbury Cathedral,StAugustine'sAbbey andStMartin'sChurch;Maritime Greenwich;
- 6. Requests the European and Arab States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in 2005, 2006 and 2007 within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all requested clarifications and documentation as soon as possible and by 1 December 2008 at the latest.

Decision: 32 COM 8D

### Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes

(Quebec City, Canada / 2 – 10 July 2008)

The World Heritage site of Budapest, including the banks of the Danube, the Buda castle quarter and Andrassy avenue, scale 1:20000

#### **Technical Summary**

The State Party has provided a clear map of the site, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone. The area in hectares of the inscribed property and its buffer zone has also been indicated.

Identification	HU-400bis
Dates of inscription	1987-2002
Area of the inscribed property	473.3 ha
Area of the buffer zone	493.8 ha
Date of receipt of the clarification	30/11/2007

### 27 COM (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters / 30 June – 5 July 2003)

Decision: 27 COM 8C.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Approves the proposed name changes to existing properties on the World Heritage List as proposed by the authorities of Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia:

Properties in Hungary: Former Name (English / French)	New Name (English / French)
Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter /	Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue /

Budapest: le panorama des deux	Budapest, avec les rives du
bords du Danube et le quartier du	Danube, le quartier du château de
château de Buda	Buda et l'avenue Andrássy

### 26 COM (Budapest, Hungary / 24 - 29 June 2002)

Decision: 26 COM 23.10

The World Heritage Committee,

Approves the extension of Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Hungary with the Andrássy Avenue and the Millennium Underground Railway on the basis of the existing *cultural criteria* (ii) and (iv).

Decision: 26 COM 23.11

With regard to Budapest, and in particular the Andrássy Avenue (1872-85) and the Millennium Underground Railway (1893-96), Hungary, the World Heritage Committee,

<u>Encourages</u> the Hungarian authorities to: (a) consider measures to improve the public spaces and street amenities; (b) propose incentives that could stimulate the conservation of residential housing in the World Heritage area, and (c) improve control of the growing automobile traffic.

Decision: 26 COM 23.12

With regard to Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Hungary, the World Heritage Committee,

<u>Encourages</u> the Hungarian authorities to extend the buffer zone of the World Heritage area to the western side of the existing property, on the Buda side of the town.

#### 16 COM (Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America / 7 – 14 December 1992)

Decision: CONF 002 VIII

### 16COM VIII

SOC: Budapest, the Banks of the Danube (Hungary) VIII.2

After having analyzed the characteristics of the construction project for the French Institute of Culture building in Budapest, the ICOMOS Representative emphasized the doctrinal considerations involved in inserting contemporary architecture in historic quarters, and the necessity to avoid pastiche or "kitch". He proposed that no action should be taken with regard to this project.

#### 11 COM (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters / 7 – 11 December 1987)

#### 11COM VII.A

Inscription: Budapest, the banks of the Danube with the district of Buda Castle (Hungary)

Budapest, the banks of 400 Hungary C(ii) (iv) the Danube with the district of Buda Castle

The Committee took note of the statement made by the observer from Hungary that his Government undertook to make no modifications to the panorama of Budapest by adding constructions out of scale.

## Budapest, the banks of the Danube with the district of Buda Castle 400 Hungary C(ii),(iv)

The Bureau recommended that the Hungarian authorities adopt a policy for safeguarding the whole built-up area, particularly with a view to stopping the development of tower blocks built on a different scale to the old buildings.

### Decision CONF 005 VII.A

The Committee took note of the statement made by the observer from Hungary that his Government undertook to make no modifications to the panorama of Budapest by adding constructions out of scale.

### 6.6 Annex 6- Second cycle Periodic Report

Periodic Report - Second Cycle Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue Section II-Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda

#### 1. World Heritage Property Data

#### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue

#### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

Hungary

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

400bis

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987, 2002

#### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)			insoription year
	0/0	?	?	?	
	0/0	?	?	?	
Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Budapest, Hungary	47.467 / 19.067	415.1	0	415.1	1987
Andrassy Avenue and the Underground, Budapest, Hungary	47.489 / 19.087	57.85	239.61	297.46	2002
Total (ha)		472.96	239.61	712.68	

#### Comment

This table contains factual errors. The correct data is: Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Budapest, Hungary Property: 413 ha Buffer zone: 0 Total: 413 ha Andrássy Avenue and the Underground, Budapest, Hungary Property: 55 ha Buffer zone: 508 ha Total: 563 ha Total Property: 488 ha Total Buffer zone: 508 ha Total: 976 ha

#### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title		Link to source
The World Heritage site of Budapest, including the banks of the Danube, the Buda castle quarter and Andrassy avenue, scale 1:20000	30/11/2007	

#### Comment

We intend to submit an updated, good quality map and after consultation with the WH Centre decide on the appropriate procedure (MBM or clarification).

#### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

#### Comment

Mr. János Lázár, Minister Responsible for the Prime Minister's Office. Prime Minister's Office, H 1357 Budapest, Pf. 6, Tel.: +36-1-795 500, E-mail: titkarsag@me.gov.hu (details are expected later) National Focal Point Dr Gábor Soós, Head of Division of World Heritage and International Relations Gyula

Forster National Centre for CH Management Táncsics u. 1. H 1014 Budapest +3612254873 gabor.soos@forsterkozpont.hu

## 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

Zoltan Cselovszki

Gyula Forster Centre for Cultural Heritage Management Chairman

#### Comment

Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management (include "National") write "President" in the title instead of "Chairman" Telephone: +36-1-225-4850

#### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

- 1. Budapest City Hall (hungarian only)
- Welcome to Budapes
- Budapest World Heritage (OWHC-CEER)

#### Comment

the relevant websides: www.forsterkozpont.hu www.vilagorokseg.hu - budapest.hu www.ovpm.org/en/hungary/budapest Please delete the non relevant websites.

## 1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

#### Comment

Danube River Protection Covention Natura 2000

#### 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

## 2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

#### Statement of Outstanding Universal Value Brief synthesis

This stretch of the Danube has been the location of human settlement since the Palaeolithic. It was the site of the Roman city of Aguincum, situated to the north of the inscribed property which comprises parts of two originally quite separate cities: Buda on the spur on the right bank and Pest on the plain on the left bank. Pest was the first medieval urban centre, devastated in 1241-2. A few years later the castle of Buda was built on a rocky spur on the right bank by King Bela IV. Thereafter, the city reflected the history of the Hungarian monarchy. After the end of the Turkish occupation, recovery did not really begin until the 18th century. In the 19th century, the city's role as a capital was enhanced by the foundation of the Hungarian Academy, housed from 1862 in a neorenaissance palace, and by the construction of the imposing neo-gothic Parliament building (1884–1904). W.T. Clark's suspension bridge, finalised in 1849, symbolised the reunification of Buda and Pest, which did not actually come about until 1873. The symbol of the development of the city as a modern metropolis was the radial Andrassy Avenue, whi was included in the property in 2002. From 1872, the Avenue radically transformed the urban structure of Pest, together with the construction of the European continent's first underground railway beneath it in 1893-6.

As a centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, Budapest is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Óbuda.

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World Heritace Centre

### 6.7 Annex 7- Hauszmann Plan

