

# ICOMOS

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

Our Ref. GB/EG/1683/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2022

H.E. Ms. Monique Van Daalen  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands to UNESCO  
7, rue Eblé  
75007 Paris

## World Heritage List 2023

### Koninklijk Eise Eisinga Planetarium (Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium) (Netherlands) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2023. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation procedure.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the “Koninklijk Eise Eisinga Planetarium (Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium)” was carried out by Ms. Gudrun Wolfschmidt (Germany) in September 2022. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organisation and implementation of the mission.

At the end of November 2022, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2023. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2023.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation for attending the meeting held on 24 November 2022 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting. During the last part of its meeting, the Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

#### Boundary of the nominated property

The ICOMOS Panel noted that in different parts of the nomination dossier, it is stated that the planetarium is inextricably linked to the building in which it is located. The ICOMOS Panel considers that the mechanism should indeed be seen as inseparable from the building notably because the mechanism is attached to the original beam construction of the building, which was specially adapted for this purpose.

However, the ICOMOS Panel notes that the boundaries of the nominated property are drawn to encompass mainly the room in which the planetarium mechanism is located. It also notes that the space above the ceiling, housing the combination of pendulum clock and cogwheels, is accessible via the short staircase opposite the entrance door of the room. However, the staircase is not included in the nominated property. In addition, the ICOMOS Panel considers that because of the educational purpose of the planetarium the location of the mechanism within the building is critical. How visitors perceive the location of the mechanism within the residence of a private citizen, how it is embedded in it, and how they access it are important for people to understand the values of the nominated property.

For these reasons, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property should be drawn to include the totality of the building that existed at the time the planetarium was constructed, in order to meet the conditions of integrity. Hence, ICOMOS would appreciate if the State Party could consider reviewing the boundary of the nominated property accordingly and submit the respective new maps.

#### **Buffer zone**

The ICOMOS Panel notes that the buffer zone is drawn to include the buildings and plots in the vicinity of the nominated property. However, the area is part of a larger designation aimed at protecting the cityscape and inner city of Franeker. Therefore, ICOMOS would be pleased to understand the rationale behind the proposed delineation of the buffer zone and if the possibility of matching the buffer zone boundary with the protective cityscape area was considered.

#### **Name of the nominated property**

The ICOMOS Panel considered that the proposed name of the nominated property as “Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium” raises two issues. Firstly, the term ‘royal’ refers to a designation dating from 2006, and secondly, the World Heritage List is a list of properties, not a list of people. Therefore, ICOMOS would like to know if the State Party would agree to change the name of the property to ‘The Historic Planetarium of Franeker’.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation procedure.

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **World Heritage Centre** with the above information **by 28 February 2023 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* for additional information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any additional information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So, we would be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

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

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to

Gemeente Waadhoeke (Municipality of Waadhoeke)  
Koninklijk Eise Eisinga Planetarium (Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium)  
Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands)  
Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre