

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

Mag. Maria Vassilakou
Vice-Mayor of the City of Vienna
Town Hall Vienna
Lichtenfelsgasse 2,
Stiege 4, 2. Stock, Tür 451
1010 Vienna
Austria

Paris, 10 February 2017

Subject: ICOMOS Heritage Alert for the Otto-Wagner-Hospital, Steinhof, Vienna

Our Ref.: KK/GJ/13 - 2017

Your Ref.: 12558 – 2016

Dear Honourable Vice-Mayor of the City of Vienna,
Dear Mrs. Vassilakou,

In our correspondence exchanges related to the ICOMOS Heritage Alert for the Jugendstil Ensemble of the Otto-Wagner Hospital, Steinhof, Vienna, you announced in your letter of 20 January 2016 (Ref. 12558 – 2016) that you would forward the WSE (Wiener Standort Entwicklung GmbH) utilization concept by the end of 2016. Unfortunately, **to date the concept has not been received by ICOMOS.**

It is with greatest concern that we have received information on latest developments, which is that – in preparation for new constructions by GESIBA – a number of trees will have to be cut down in the eastern section of the Steinhof area. It is highly regrettable that this part of the so-called “economic area” has neither been protected by Austrian Heritage Protection nor by the building code of Vienna up to now. In the opinion of ICOMOS, it is the obligation of the authorities in charge of the cultural heritage of the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria to guarantee that all legal instruments for the protection of the whole area be implemented.

In this sense, ICOMOS wishes to remind of the recommendations it made in its letter to you of 16 March 2016 (which we allow ourselves to attach again to this letter), that a holistic approach be applied for the future concept for the Otto-Wagner Hospital, Steinhof. **This concept has to respect and develop the Otto-Wagner Hospital ensemble as a whole and be based on its important historic and cultural values.**

Therefore, ICOMOS urgently renews its earlier appeal that **“all construction plans should be stopped until the presentation of the WSE study and the conclusion of the necessary discussions that should follow”** and requests **that this be acted on immediately.**

Yours sincerely,



Kirsti Kovanen
ICOMOS Secretary General



Wilfried Lipp
President of ICOMOS Austria

Copy to:

Bundeskanzleramt Österreich / Sektion II Kunst und Kultur
Abteilung II/4 Denkmalschutz und Kunstrückgabeangelegenheiten
Mag. Ruth Veronika Pröckl
Concordiaplatz 2
1010 Vienna

Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Universitätsstraße 5
1010 Vienna

Initiative Steinhof - Ing. Gerhard Hadinger
Obertal 7
3212 Schwarzenbach/Pielach