

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

For the attention of :

Mr Klaus IOHANNIS
President of Romania

Mr Victor PONTA
Prime Minister of Romania

Mr Ioan VULPESCU
Minister of Culture

Ms Grația GAVRILESCU
Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests

Mr Mihai TUDOSE
Minister of Economy, Trade and Tourism

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA
Chamber of Deputies
Romania's Senate

Mr Ani MATEI
General Secretary
Romania's National Commission for
UNESCO

Mr Gheorghe FENEȘER
Prefect of County Alba

Mr Ion DUMITREL
President of Alba County Council

Mr Eugen FURDUI
Mayor of Roșia Montană

Mr. Ionel Valentin VLAD
President of the Romanian Academy

Our Ref.: GA/GJ/13

Paris, 26 January 2015

Your Excellencies, Madam/Sir,

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites - a unique, non-governmental, not-for-profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage - held its 18th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Florence from 9 to 14 November 2014.

During this event, which gathered over 1650 participants and guests from 94 countries, and saw 73 ICOMOS National Committees represented, a Resolution concerning the "**Rescue of the Roșia Montană mining landscape and promotion of a sustainable development model**" (n° 18GA 2014/26) was unanimously approved and adopted (see the full resolution below).

ICOMOS calls again upon all the authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of Romania's heritage to reinforce their commitment and ensure that in Roșia Montană precedence is given to the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage over industrial and construction pressures, and consequently to implement policies and best practices, in accordance with the provisions of all relevant international charters and international conventions adopted by Romania;

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ICOMOS expresses again its willingness to collaborate with the above authorities and offers them the availability of its professional network to assist them in this work so as to make Roşia Montană a model for the development and application of appropriate policies and practices to the conservation of historic places.

At its forthcoming Board meeting in 9-10 March 2015, ICOMOS will discuss the establishment of an ICOMOS working group on Roşia Montană, who together with ICOMOS Romania is at your disposal to ensure the recovery of the socio-economic conditions in the area, based upon the protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the locality and of the region of Roşia Montană.

Yours sincerely



Gustavo Araoz
President

Copy to:
ICOMOS Romania

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Resolution 18GA 2014/26 – Rescue of the Roşia Montană mining landscape and promotion of a sustainable development model

The 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling resolution 13GA 2002/20 of the 13th General Assembly (Madrid, 2002), resolution 14GA 2003/1b of the 14th Extraordinary General Assembly (Victoria Falls, 2003), the resolution of the ICOMOS Conference, held in Pécs, Hungary, 22-27 May 2004, the ICAHM Statement on the mining concept at Roşia Montană, issued in Lyon, France, at the European Archaeological Association Conference on 9 September 2004, resolution 15GA 2005/8 of the 15th General Assembly (Xi'an, 2005), resolution 16GA 2008/4 of the 16th General Assembly (Quebec, 2008) resolution 17GA 2011/22 of the 17th General Assembly (Paris, 2011) and the resolution of the ICOMOS Executive Committee (San José, 2013);

Recalling all actions undertaken by ICOMOS and its Romanian National Committee to bring a resolution to this conflict and an international recognition of this exceptional archaeological and cultural landscape associated to historical mining activities;

Taking into consideration that additional statements of concern have been issued by official, scientific and professional institutions and bodies, and by several NGOs and religious communities;

Noting the lack of reaction by the Romanian Government with respect to the above mentioned repeated calls issued by international and Romanian professionals and civil society;

Noting with satisfaction that in 2013 the Romanian Parliament rejected, by an enormous majority, the bill on the mining project at Roşia Montană as proposed by the Romanian Government;

Considering that this democratic reaction opens the way for a new approach to the recovery of the socio-economic conditions in the area, based upon the protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the locality and of the region of Roşia Montană;

Taking into account the decision of Europa Nostra to include Roşia Montană in the list of Europe's most endangered monuments and sites and, consequently, its commitment to contribute to a new development paradigm for the area, whereby organizations such as ICOMOS can fully participate in the elaboration process;

Affirming once more the outstanding significance of Roşia Montană – the ancient Alburnus Maior, a cultural landscape which evolved over two millennia, from the unique vestiges of the Roman underground mining system, to those of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Modern times, together with the traditional mining town, inherited from the Habsburg times;

Reiterating its deepest concern about the planned mining operations which, after over a decade of repeated high profile international calls of warning and messages of support for heritage protection as well as national actions in defence of heritage, still threaten Roşia Montană and its surroundings;

Recognising the necessity to launch emergency measures for the salvaging, conservation and restoration of the heritage features of Roşia Montană and for the promotion of a viable, sustainable development model based on the rich cultural and natural heritage resources of the area;

Considering the worldwide relevance of the case of Roşia Montană for so many other historical sites and landscapes under threat from contemporary, large scale, open-cast mining;

Calls again upon all the authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of Romania's heritage to reinforce their commitment and ensure that precedence is given to the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage over industrial and construction pressures, and consequently to implement policies and best practices, in accordance with the provisions of all relevant international charters and international conventions adopted by Romania;

Expresses again its willingness to collaborate with the above authorities and offers them the availability of its professional network to assist them in this work so as to make Roşia Montană a model for the development and application of appropriate policies and practices to the conservation of historic places;

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Requests the Executive Committee to establish a working group on Roşia Montană within ICOMOS, formed by representatives of its relevant International Scientific Committees (e.g. Vernacular Architecture - CIAV, Historic Towns and Villages - CIVVIH, Archaeological Heritage Management - ICAHM, Cultural Landscapes - ISCCL), with the task of proposing a plan and a roadmap for the elaboration of a set of principles for the sustainable development of the Roşia Montană area based upon the rehabilitation and enhancement of its cultural and natural assets; such working group will be open to collaborate with and receive contributions from other organizations such as, among others, Europa Nostra and The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH)..

Letters sent to :

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