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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector

H.E. Ms Martina Nibbeling-Wrießnig
Ambassador
Permanent Delegation of Germany to
UNESCO
UNESCO House

Ref.: WHC/74/4088/DE/PA/PT

11 July 2011

Subject: **State of conservation of the World Heritage property "Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof"**

Dear Ambassador,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of the letter and supporting documents from the City of Regensburg dated 9 June 2011 kindly conveyed by your Delegation.

We have transmitted them to ICOMOS International, the Advisory Body of the *World Heritage Convention*, for urgent review and comments.

ICOMOS' comments are as follows:

"ICOMOS' earlier comments on the assessments that it had been provided with, for both the proposed bridge and the proposed high-rise building, identified what it saw as the shortcomings of these assessments as they did not consider impacts on the overall Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

In addressing the State Party's specific questions in its letter of 9 June on the bridge proposals, ICOMOS considers that as the full impacts of the various proposals on the attributes of the OUV have not been set out in an impact assessment, it cannot, at this stage, support a bridge scheme in principle.

In addressing the State Party's specific questions in its letter of 9 June on the proposed high-rise Ostenturm, ICOMOS considers that as the full impacts of the revised proposals on the attributes of OUV have not been set out in an impact assessment, and as ICOMOS had previously considered that a building above 40 metres could have an adverse impact on OUV, it cannot, at this stage, support a building of 60 metres in height.

ICOMOS welcomes the suggestion of an Advisory Mission, but consider for this to be effective it should ideally be undertaken once the results of Impact Assessments on OUV have been carried out in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for cultural heritage properties. These assessments should be carried out by the State Party on

the basis of a retrospective Statement of OUV that is already being undertaken.

Once these impact assessments that clearly set out potential impacts on the attributes of the OUV have been undertaken, a considered dialogue could be undertaken with the State Party through an Advisory Mission."

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre would like to recall that, as stated in Decision **33 COM 7B.105**, the 2011 state of conservation report for the property was requested for review by ICOMOS and not by the *World Heritage Committee*.

I would be grateful if you could convey this information to the responsible national and local authorities for their consideration and take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre

cc: German National Commission for UNESCO
Dr Birgitta Ringbeck, World Heritage focal point for Germany
ICOMOS International