

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

Mr. Dario Nardella
Mayor of Florence
Comune di Firenze
Palazzo Vecchio
Piazza della Signoria
50122, Firenze, Italy
uff.sindaco@pec.comune.fi.it

Our Ref.: TK/GJ/69

27 November 2020

Subject: ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ALERT STADIO ARTEMIO FRANCHI

Dear Mayor Nardella,

It has come to the attention of ICOMOS, that on 16 November 2020, the Fiorentina Football Club requested authorization from the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage to demolish, in whole or in part, the Municipal Stadium of Florence, dedicated to Artemio Franchi. We understand that this has been done pursuant to the recently passed law that specifically exempts sports facilities from the strict requirements of the Italian Cultural Heritage Code. It has also come to our attention that the Municipality of Florence has sided with the Club by backing the request sent to the Ministry.

We are therefore writing to inform you that ICOMOS is issuing a Heritage Alert to draw international attention to this dire situation. The Stadium by Pier Luigi Nervi is an iconic work of twentieth century concrete heritage, and should be preserved. Nervi's stadium set a high standard for sports design and for structural engineering, matching improvements in efficiency with daring structural forms and poetic, evocative architectural elements. It inaugurated a new way of seeing and conceiving structural forms, and of realizing them through technologies and construction methods that were cutting-edge for their time. The stadium is among the most important monuments of Italian architecture due to its unprecedented role as structural architecture and was declared of cultural and historical significance on 22 May 2020.

We urge you to reconsider your endorsement of even a partial dismantling of the Stadium. ICOMOS believes that your resistance to any, even partial, demolition will be crucial for its preservation. ICOMOS, the Italian National Committee and our International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage, will vigorously campaign to prevent the disfiguration or demolition of the Stadio Artemio Franchi. We have attached a copy of the ICOMOS Heritage Alert for your information.

ICOMOS is at your full disposal to further explain why it is imperative that the Municipality withdraws from any plan to dismantle or even destroy Pier Luigi Nervi's Artemio Franchi Stadium, so as to ensure the safeguarding of its integrity as a whole — as a treasure to preserve for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Toshiyuki Kono, President of ICOMOS



T. Gunny Harboe, President of the ICOMOS ISC20C



Maurizio Di Stefano, President
ICOMOS Italy



Cettina Lenza, President Italian
ICOMOS NSC20C

