

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:

President of the Hellenic Republic
Vasileos Georgiou B',
n.2, Athens P.C. 100 28
pr@presidency.gr

Office of the Minister of State and
Government Representative
Megaron Maximou, Irodou Attikou 19,
10674 Athens
ekprosopos@kyvernisi.gr

Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports
Bouboulinas 20-22, 10681, Athens Greece
minoff@culture.gr

Our Ref.: GJ/TP/72

Paris, 22 December 2020

Your Excellencies,

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 20th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, from 3 to 16 December 2020.

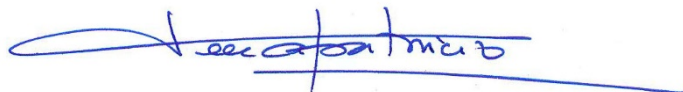
During this event, a Resolution under the title "**Protect the antiquities *in situ* at the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki, Greece**" (n° 20GA/14) was approved and adopted (see the full resolution below). Please also find the full Heritage Alert document to which this resolution refers in attachment.

ICOMOS calls upon the Hellenic Government not to proceed with the implementation of the current plan that involves the detachment of the antiquities, given the fact that this is a monumental ensemble which constitutes an integral part of the history of the city of Thessaloniki and of the world cultural heritage.

ICOMOS invites the Hellenic authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of cultural heritage to revise the action plan and to implement policies and best practices, in accordance with the provisions of all relevant international charters, including the relevant ICOMOS Charter on Archaeological Heritage Management, and international conventions adopted by the Hellenic Republic.

ICOMOS remains at the disposal of the Hellenic government and heritage authorities to provide advice on how best to achieve the above.

Yours sincerely



Teresa Patricio
President

Copy to:
ICOMOS Hellenic
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Resolution 20GA/14 - Protect the antiquities *in situ* at the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki, Greece

The 20th ICOMOS General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Taking into account the concern expressed by ICOMOS Hellenic as well as several other statements of concern that have been issued by national and international official, scientific and professional institutions and bodies, and by several NGOs;

Affirming the outstanding significance of the Venizelos Metro station antiquities, a cultural ensemble that dates from late antiquity up to the transitional period and the beginning of the Middle Byzantine times (4th - 9th century CE) and comprises the main Roman marble paved road, Decumanus Maximus, and the commercial centre of Roman and Byzantine Thessaloniki;

Noting with concern that the current development proposals threaten the integrity and authenticity of the antiquities of the Thessaloniki Metro Station, and substantially change and undermine their cultural heritage value;

Also taking into account the ICOMOS Hellenic Heritage Alert;

Calls upon the Hellenic Government not to proceed with the implementation of the current plan that involves the detachment of the antiquities, given the fact that this is a monumental ensemble which constitutes an integral part of the history of the city of Thessaloniki and of the world cultural heritage;

Invites the Hellenic authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of cultural heritage to revise the action plan and to implement policies and best practices, in accordance with the provisions of all relevant international charters, including the relevant ICOMOS Charter on Archaeological Heritage Management, and international conventions adopted by the Hellenic Republic.