



ICOMOS **ICAHM**
International Committee
on Archaeological
Heritage Management

The International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) advises ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee on matters that pertain to all aspects of the management of archaeological sites and landscapes. These include formulating and propagating standards and best practices for both archaeological research and cultural resource management. ICAHM has an international membership that is drawn from every region in the world.

Following the mandate of the World Heritage Convention, ICAHM is concerned not only with World Heritage Sites and sites being considered for inscription on the World Heritage List, but with all archaeological sites, landscapes, and related resources, around the world. ICAHM collaborates with international, national, regional, and local organizations that pursue related goals. ICAHM is unique among them in its focus on the development and propagation of effective and efficient international cultural resource management standards and practices.

ICAHM views with the greatest alarm the proposed changes to Hungarian legislation that are contained within „A kulturális örökség védelméről szóló 2001. évi LXIV. törvény módosításáról” szóló T/3486. számú törvényjavaslat = proposal T/3486, which would alter the 2011/LXIV law regarding cultural heritage management. ICAHM is very concerned that the currently proposed legislative changes would neither provide adequate time nor funding (1) to find and record archaeological resources that might be encountered in projects; (2) to determine steps that should be taken to preserve important archaeological sites if they are found; and, should damage or destruction be unavoidable (3) to mitigate by extensive excavation archaeological materials that will be damaged or destroyed.

The legal change proposed here also seems to infringe upon two European conventions that have been duly signed and brought into force in Hungary: the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Malta, 1992) and the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000). ICAHM urges you not to alter the existing legislation in consideration not only of the effect that it would have on the archaeological heritage of Hungary, but also the threat that it poses to the aforementioned European Conventions. It is our understanding that many of the preeminent archaeologists in Hungary have also been vocal in their opposition to the proposed changes to the existing legislation, and we encourage you to heed the concerns that they have voiced.

Sincerely,
(signed)

Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D., RPA (USA)
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Co-Presidents, ICAHM