

# 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

Mag. Maria Vassilakou  
Vice-Mayor of the City of Vienna  
Town Hall Vienna  
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Austria

Paris, 10 February 2017

**Subject: ICOMOS Heritage Alert for the Otto-Wagner-Hospital, Steinhof, Vienna**

Our Ref.: KK/GJ/13 - 2017

Your Ref.: 12558 – 2016

Dear Honourable Vice-Mayor of the City of Vienna,  
Dear Mrs. Vassilakou,

In our correspondence exchanges related to the ICOMOS Heritage Alert for the Jugendstil Ensemble of the Otto-Wagner Hospital, Steinhof, Vienna, you announced in your letter of 20 January 2016 (Ref. 12558 – 2016) that you would forward the WSE (Wiener Standort Entwicklung GmbH) utilization concept by the end of 2016. Unfortunately, to date the concept has not been received by ICOMOS.

It is with greatest concern that we have received information on latest developments, which is that – in preparation for new constructions by GESIBA – a number of trees will have to be cut down in the eastern section of the Steinhof area. It is highly regrettable that this part of the so-called “economic area” has neither been protected by Austrian Heritage Protection nor by the building code of Vienna up to now. In the opinion of ICOMOS, it is the obligation of the authorities in charge of the cultural heritage of the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria to guarantee that all legal instruments for the protection of the whole area be implemented.

In this sense, ICOMOS wishes to remind of the recommendations it made in its letter to you of 16 March 2016 (which we allow ourselves to attach again to this letter), that a holistic approach be applied for the future concept for the Otto-Wagner Hospital, Steinhof. This concept has to respect and develop the Otto-Wagner Hospital ensemble as a whole and be based on its important historic and cultural values.

Therefore, ICOMOS urgently renews its earlier appeal that “all construction plans should be stopped until the presentation of the WSE study and the conclusion of the necessary discussions that should follow” and requests that this be acted on immediately.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsti Kovanen  
ICOMOS Secretary General



Wilfried Lipp  
President of ICOMOS Austria

Copy to:

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