



Kingdom of the Netherlands

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Dr M.E. Rössler
7, Place de Fontenoy
F-75352 PARIS 07 SP FRANCE

Permanent Delegate of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands
to UNESCO

Our reference
~~UNESCO-2015-19~~
2015 B-28

Enclosures
5

Date 8 October 2015
Subject Notification of developments within "Defence Line of Amsterdam" World Heritage Site

Jean Medtild,

Dear Dr Rössler,

In accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the government of the Netherlands wishes to inform you of proposed spatial planning developments within the Defence Line of Amsterdam [*Stelling van Amsterdam*] World Heritage Site. The plans involve two infrastructure projects: improving the connection between the A8 and A9 motorways and construction of a depot for trains. Both these initiatives are located within the Uitgeest-Heemskerk area, to the northwest of Amsterdam. The initiators – the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (Train Depot) and the Province of Noord-Holland (A8-A9 Link Road) – commissioned a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for each project.

The Dutch government requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to advise it on how to deal with the two initiatives, which are situated within a the World Heritage Site and are in the midst of the urban and economic core of the Netherlands. The backgrounds to the initiatives, their impact on the OUV, and the questions for the World Heritage Centre are set out in two separate State of Conservation reports. Please find the two SoC reports and the two HIAs enclosed.

No irreversible decisions have yet been taken on the two initiatives. A regional administrative consultation meeting on the Train Depot will be held on 15 December 2015. The Netherlands will take account of UNESCO's opinion at that meeting. Given the time required for both substantive and administrative preparation, the Dutch government requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to be so kind as to provide its opinion *within six weeks of receipt of this notification*.

In 2011 UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM drew up guidelines for the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage Sites.

Within the highly urbanised Netherlands, spatial planning developments are commonplace, and may have an impact on one of the country's World Heritage

Sites or on heritage sites on the Tentative List. The HIA has shown itself to be a valuable tool for visualising the potential impacts of proposed developments and involving them in the process of planning and decision-making. In the Netherlands, this is now the third time that an HIA is utilised, and others are forthcoming.

The Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency would be only too happy to share the experience it has gained in the use of this tool. Research by the universities of Aachen, Eindhoven and Krems – led by Dr Michael Kloos, UNESCO Chair at RTWH Aachen University – on the status quo of HIAs is a suitable means for doing so, and the Dutch government is glad to support this research also financially.

The Dutch authorities involved in the present matter look forward to receiving your response to their above mentioned request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lionel Veer', written over a horizontal line.

Lionel Veer
Ambassador

Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO