

# 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

H.E. Kelemen Hunor  
Minister of Culture and  
National Heritage  
Bucharest  
Romania

Paris, 3 December 2011

Your Excellency,

Recently, at its 17th General Assembly held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, ICOMOS reiterated its concern for the cultural heritage of Rosia Montana in Romania. ICOMOS also reiterated its commitment to provide its expertise for the objective assessment of the site's significance and for the evaluation of the preservation and integrated conservation programmes proposed for the region.

This is not a new proposal. I recall that since 2002, the issues of the cultural values of the site and the importance of its conservation have been raised at four ICOMOS General Assemblies. The resolutions concerning Rosia Montana were conveyed to the relevant authorities in Romania and you are surely aware of their contents.

I will therefore only quote from the most recent resolution issued by our 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Quebec (2008) where ICOMOS called for "further evaluation of the significance of the site as a cultural landscape and its archaeological, architectural and ethnographic heritage together with its spiritual values in the context of the cultural heritage of Europe and the world" and expressed "once again its will to collaborate with the Romanian authorities and other organizations".

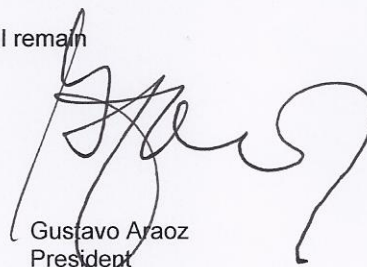
ICOMOS has been approached by the Rosia Montana Gold Corporation with the request to carry out an independent international expertise, as part of a Heritage Impact Assessment. ICOMOS has since 2002 considered that such an expertise is mandatory to ensure the proper management of the site. However, ICOMOS considers that such an expertise should not be provided solely at the request of an interested entity, namely the RMGC and recalls that all its past resolutions commit ICOMOS to put its expertise at the service of the relevant authorities of Romania.

With regards to the above, we therefore solicit your advice on the proposal of organizing in early 2012 an international expert meeting in Romania, with the objective of contributing a Heritage Impact Assessment Report based on listening to the concerns and proposals of all interested parties. We would welcome that the Romanian Ministry of Culture be among the initiators of this Expert Meeting and the key beneficiary of our report. The RMGC has expressed its availability to cover the costs of such an Expert Meeting, which is reasonable considering its financial means and its duties as administrator of the mining site. Nevertheless, we believe that in order to avoid any allegations of conflict of interests, the funds for this meeting should be transferred by the RMGC to the Romanian Ministry of Culture or to one of its public institutions under its authority, which will be responsible for the disbursement.

A great number of evaluations and analysis on Rosia Montana have already been produced and will be distributed to all ICOMOS experts in advance. We have learned that the issue of conserving the site versus a mining redevelopment is currently one of the major subjects of public debate throughout Romanian society. An independent assessment, such as that requested from ICOMOS will be of support to you and the government of Romania in its decision making process. In order to facilitate communication, ICOMOS Romania will join ICOMOS international in the organization and follow-up of the expert meeting, which we will hopefully organize jointly in early 2012.

Looking forward for your positive response to our proposal, I remain

Yours sincerely



Gustavo Araoz  
President

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