

# 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

The Prime Minister  
of the Russian Federation  
Mr Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev  
Krasnopresnenskaya nab., D. 2, p. 2,  
103274 Moscow,  
Russia

Our Ref.: KK/SAK/GJ/40

Paris, 20 July 2016

## ICOMOS Heritage Alert for the Historic City of Vyborg

Dear Prime Minister,

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, on the basis of information gathered by Russian ICOMOS members, the National Committee of Finland and the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH), wishes to express its strong concerns about the safeguarding of the Historic City of Vyborg and therefore addresses this ICOMOS Heritage Alert to the attention of the authorities of the Russian Federation, and the administrations of the City of Vyborg and Leningrad Oblast.

Recalling the decision made by the authorities of the Russian Federation in 2010 to include Vyborg in the list of "historic settlements of federal significance" due to its urban, historic and artistic values;

Taking into account that Vyborg is a large scale architectural and landscape complex whose values lie not only in its landmarks and ensembles but also in its overall historic layout in combination with the surrounding natural landscape;

Affirming that the city represents a unique example of the continuity of city-planning ideas and a perfect union of works by a variety of national architectural schools across a range of time periods;

Concerned that the master plan of Vyborg and current urban planning documentation have been adopted in the absence of designated cultural and historic heritage protection zones, and by the level of administrative management, that does not provide efficient protection of Vyborg's built heritage;

Concerned by the growing loss of cultural and architectural values and by the poor quality of building development in the core of the historic town;

Concerned by the unsatisfactory condition of cultural properties in the historic part of the city, due to inadequate protection, maintenance and conservation measures;

Deploring that a number of historic buildings in the city centre currently stand abandoned and some lie in a state of almost total ruin;

ICOMOS calls urgently upon the Russian authorities, in conjunction with the administrations of the City of Vyborg and Leningrad Oblast, to:

- Develop a long-term management plan for the preservation of Vyborg, as a joint effort of both domestic and international stakeholders, taking into account the multicultural character of the city;
- Urgently define the protection zones of the cultural heritage objects in Vyborg, and related specific town-planning regulations;
- Urgently prohibit any demolition and construction work, or establishment of new building plots, in the historic centre of Vyborg or within the proposed protection zones of cultural heritage sites;

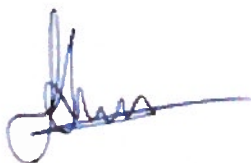
- Urgently protect historic buildings in need of emergency repairs against acts of vandalism and further deterioration;
- Develop adequate legal tools and standards for the protection of the built heritage of Vyborg, and ensure the implementation of methodological capacity building measures in Vyborg in the field of heritage preservation, such as the training of staff in charge of the heritage sites and buildings;
- Address and resolve the obstacles to organizing and financing professional research, detailed documentation and evaluation of the city structure, its buildings and interiors, and archaeological objects;
- Consider planning and urban development solutions that contribute to the enhancement of the historic parts of Vyborg rather than threatening their fabric;
- Encourage the administrations of the City of Vyborg and Leningrad Oblast to enter into discussion with and involve experts on the preservation of cultural heritage in the above mentioned processes, and establish an international cooperation mechanism for this purpose.

ICOMOS, through its specialized Scientific Committees, Russian, Finnish and world-wide experts, remains at the disposal of the Russian Authorities, and the administrations of the City of Vyborg and Leningrad Oblast, to support you in the implementation of the recommendations made in this Heritage Alert.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Kirsti Kovanen  
Secretary General of ICOMOS



Ms Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias  
President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH),

**Attachment:** ICOMOS Heritage Alert Document

**This letter is sent to:**

The President of the Russian Federation  
Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin  
ul. Ilinka, d. 23, 103132, Moscow, Russia

The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation  
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The Governor of the Leningrad Region  
Mr Alexander Y. Drozdenko  
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**copy to :** the Delegation of the Russian Federation at UNESCO