

The Hague, 28 June 2018

**For the attention of the 21 State Parties of the World Heritage Committee**

**Subject:**

***Nomination of Roşia Montană (Romania) for inscription on the World Heritage List***

Dear Members of the World Heritage Committee,

We are hereby calling for your attention on the case of Roşia Montană, in Romania, which needs your firm and immediate support.

Nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, the site has received a positive, encouraging, yet worrying recommendation from ICOMOS: to inscribe the site on both the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

However, the sense of urgency that results from such a clear recommendation has been endangered by a recent disturbing piece of news, indicating a potential request from the State Party to UNESCO to delay the decision of the World Heritage Committee on this case.

After so many years of relentless struggle - by a wide and active segment of civil society including Europa Nostra - to save this site from the proposed highly destructive mining project, we are of the opinion that the recommendation of ICOMOS provides an adequate response to the protection needs of Roşia Montană. The inscription of the site on the World Heritage List will ensure its urgent protection and conservation and will encourage and enable access to international cooperation and assistance. Moreover, a decision to inscribe the site on the two lists - namely the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger - would mark the beginning of a new era of sustainable development for the local communities concerned, which have for too long been neglected and so negatively impacted by the many years of resistance to the threats caused by the proposed mining project.

It is for this reason that we are hopeful that the World Heritage Committee, acting in accordance with UNESCO relevant rules and procedures, will reach at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session in Bahrein a positive decision to inscribe the Roşia Montană site both on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger. We urge you to carefully examine all recommendations made by ICOMOS, and also to duly take into account the concerned voices of civil society acting at local, national and European levels. We are confident that you will agree with our strong view that Roşia Montană deserves to be inscribed on the UNESCO List of World Heritage, and that the decision on this inscription needs to be taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session in Bahrein, in this year when we celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

We reiterate here our commitment to actively assist the local, regional, national and international organisations, authorities and communities concerned in their endeavor to protect and develop this outstanding heritage site in an informed and sustainable way.

Respectfully and cordially yours,



Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger  
Executive President



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