

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

On the Historic Center of Gjirokastra, Albania

Due to the continuing loss of cultural monuments in Gjirokastra through a lack of conservation efforts and policy for the conservation and management of the town, the continuing failure of the Albanian State Party to comply with the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and the entirely insufficient financial and human resources allocated to resolving the city's problems, we ask the World Heritage Committee, at its 41st session, to:

- request the State Party of Albania to stop the Bypass Road project permanently; undertake a comprehensive study of traffic flows and mobility needs in the town; and develop alternative plans to keep the historic bazaar free of motorized vehicles, to be examined by the Committee and its Advisory Bodies;
- request that the State Party rescinds its decision to de-list over 200 Category II cultural monuments, and instead develops a plan, in consultation with ICOMOS and ICCROM, for their restoration, reconstruction and re-utilization as applicable; and
- authorize the Secretariat, in accordance with Art. 176 e) of the Operational Guidelines to the WH Convention, to take the necessary action to ascertain, in consultation with the Albanian State Party, the present condition of the property, the dangers to the property and the feasibility of adequately restoring the property.

Krakow, 1 July 2017