City of Vienna
on behalf of the Republic of Austria

REPORT ON THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE REGARDING
THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE
"HISTORIC CENTRE OF VIENNA (AUSTRIA)"

Date of Report:
September 2002
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The present report comprises 69 pages of text with numerous maps, illustrations and statistics
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **BACKGROUND, OBJECT AND CONTENT OF THE PRESENT REPORT** 4  
   * The inscription of the Historic Center of Vienna on the UNESCO World Heritage List 4  
   * The requests and recommendations made at the 26th meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest 4  

2. **THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF VIENNA AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE** 6  
   * The historical, architectural and cultural values 6  
   * The criteria of authenticity and integrity 8  
   * The nomination criteria 8  

3. **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF VIENNA** 11  

4. **VIENNA'S URBAN STRUCTURE – TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE** 15  

5. **THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK** 18  
   * The Preservation of Monuments Act 18  
   * The Vienna Building Code 19  
   * The Vienna Old Town Conservation Act 20  
   * The City of Vienna Land Use and Development Plan 20  
   * The Vienna Nature Conservation Act and the "Vienna Tree Preservation Act" 21  

6. **COMMENTS ON THE POINTS RAISED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE** 22  

6.1 **The Wien-Mitte Urban Development Project** 22  
   * The urban development context 22  
   * Background information on the Wien-Mitte Project 25  
   * Description of the project 27  
   * The project-related analyses from the perspective of architecture and preservation of monuments 29  
     - Viewed from inside points 29  
     - Viewed from outside points 33  
     - Inside and outside views from artificially elevated points 34  
   * The public discussion 37  
   * Efforts made by the City of Vienna with respect to the legal framework 38
6.2 Control (quality assurance) of future large development activities
* Building stock-oriented use in land use and development plan of the City of Vienna
* New guidelines for planning and assessing high-rise projects in Vienna
* Analysis of the visual axes and vistas in the urban area of Vienna
* Study of roof extensions and roof landscapes

6.3 Restoration practices in the historic center
* General protection measures
* Inventories as the basis of monument conservation works
  - DEHIO-manuals, art topographies, literature
  - The City of Vienna’s database on cultural assets
* Intensified protection within the World Heritage site

6.4 Intensification of technical capacities in the restoration of buildings
* The administration and control system and the possibilities of implementation
* Future information of the World Heritage Center

7. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

8. PUBLIC RELATION WORK

9. SUMMARY

10. ANNEX

10.1 Prizes and awards for preservation of monuments and conservation of the old town of Vienna

10.2 Literature
1. BACKGROUND, OBJECT AND CONTENT OF THE PRESENT REPORT

* The inscription of the Historic Center of Vienna on the UNESCO World Heritage List

At the 25th meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Helsinki from 11 to 16 December 2001, the Committee decided in favor of the inscription of the Historic Center of Vienna on the UNESCO World Heritage List proposed by the Republic of Austria.

The criteria for inscription included historical, urban development and architectural values, but equally, by explicit mention, Vienna's cultural role as the "European Capital of Music", which will be explored in more detail in Section 2 of the present report.

The inscription was linked to a recommendation to review the height and volume of the Wien-Mitte urban development project, adjacent to the World Heritage site of Vienna and located in the buffer zone of the site, so as not to impair the visual integrity of the historical town.

Furthermore, the Committee recommended that special attention be given to continuous monitoring and control of any changes to the morphology of the historic building stock.

* The requests and recommendations made at the 26th meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Budapest

In response to various media reports and messages sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Center in Paris regarding the Historic Center of Vienna, at its 26th meeting in Budapest the World Heritage Committee reiterated the recommendations it had made at the time of the inscription of the property (Section 1 of the document) and requested the State Party to provide, by 1 October 2002, detailed information demonstrating that the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of the inscription had been taken into account (Section 5 of the document).

The Republic of Austria acknowledges this request and, upon consultation with the City of Vienna and in accordance with the legal provisions in force, is prepared to undertake the
utmost efforts in order that the Historic Center of Vienna may remain inscribed on the World Heritage List.

To this end the present report first provides a brief outline review of the basic technical details (Sections 2-5) and then goes on to deal comprehensively and in detail with the recommendations and concerns of the World Heritage Committee as formulated at its 26th meeting in Budapest (Sections 6-9).

Fig. 1: Aerial photograph of Vienna showing the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage site.