

H.E. Mr Halvor Hvideberg
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of
Norway to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO

9 November 2022

**Culture Sector
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CLT/WHC/EUR/22/14096

Dear Ambassador,

I wish to reiterate my sincere thanks to both your national and local authorities for the successful organization of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the World Heritage property 'Bryggen', which took place from 19 to 21 September 2022.

I am pleased to transmit herewith the report of the mission, thus meeting the very tight deadline that all parties had agreed so that it can be added to the documentation of the ongoing public hearing. I would be grateful if you could share it with your relevant national authorities.

The mission report provides substantive advice mainly on the Bybanen Light Rail extension project, the related Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process and the delineation and nature of the buffer zone. The mission considered, in particular, the potential impacts of the Bybanen Light Rail extension project on the attributes of the property which support and convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as defined in the Management Plan 2021-2025. In line with the latest independent HIA report (dated 18 October 2022), the mission concludes that at this stage not enough information is available on the potential risks of the Bybanen project, including potentially significant subsurface impacts, to make an informed decision and that, as such, the HIA process cannot yet be seen to have been completed.

In this context, I wish to commend the State Party of Norway for the thoroughness of the ongoing process of assessing the impact of the Bybanen extension on the OUV of the property as an example of best practice in World Heritage management. In bringing this report to the attention of your competent authorities, I would like to encourage them to implement its recommendations, in particular those concerning the continuation of this process through further investigation of the as yet unknown potential direct impacts on the OUV of the property.

Should your relevant national authorities wish to inform the World Heritage Centre of any factual errors in the mission report, I would like to invite them to do so by 2 December 2022 at the latest. Please also note that, in line with the World Heritage Centre's efforts for an improved transparency of all processes of the World Heritage Convention, after this date or after the correction of any factual errors that your authorities may have pointed out, the report will be made available to the public on the World Heritage Centre's website, unless you indicate otherwise.

I thank you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lazare Eloundou Assomo', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lazare Eloundou Assomo
Director

Enc.

cc: Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO
National Focal Point for the implementation of the Convention
ICOMOS International