

Coordinamento dei Comitati per la Salute della Piana di Prato e Pistoia

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Prato/Italy February 17th,2016

Mrs Mechtild Rössler
Director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre
Centre du Patrimoine Mondial UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 PARIS 07 SP - FRANCE

Re: New Airport of Florence

Your ref. CLT/HERJWHC/7763/IT/AS/KR eonpocaM o6pa3oeaHIIISI, 29 January 2015
and CLT/HER/WHC/7960/IT/AS/KR 27 May 2015

Dear Mrs. Rössler,

Please accept our congratulations for your nomination as Director. We wish you success in conserving the heritage that our ancestors have left us.

In the same spirit, we cannot forget the work of your predecessor Kishore Rao and ask you to pass on our sincere appreciation to him for his actions in response to the threat posed to the UNESCO site of Florence by the proposed new airport in the outskirts of the city.

We trust that in your role as new Director you will continue to protect the heritage of Florence with its “exclusive universal value”.

The proponent of the new airport declares that at least a minimal part of Florence will be under the flight path in rare circumstances (0.9% short final/pull up) however the technical report of ARPAT (the environment protection agency of Tuscany) and our experts demonstrate that this is a drastic understatement, if not outright untrue.

Environmental and view damage near the Medici Villas will be “certain, possible and irreparable”, and having the city under the flight path means risking an air disaster. No-one can ensure that this would never happen: the history of aviation is full of such events.

As director of WHC UNESCO, we are confident that you will follow in the footsteps of your predecessor in protecting the heritage of Florence that greatly exceeds its “historical value”, and that you will therefore not be prepared to accept this potential risk to the UNESCO site.

Yours sincerely,

Gianfranco Ciulli
Spokesman

Coordinator of Committees and Associations against the New Florence's Airport