

Press Release

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Regensburg is a World Heritage Site !

The decision was taken today in Vilnius, and the town of Regensburg is overjoyed.

Mayor Hans Schaidinger expressed his appreciation: It was a big compliment to the city of Regensburg to be listed by UNESCO, as many towns try in vain. It was also a confirmation of something we believed in: that our town was very special, and we could be proud of it. Decades of efforts to protect the old town as a cultural heritage and at the same time to create a modern residential environment were crowned with success now.

He also thanked all of those who had helped to get the application accepted by UNESCO. Appreciation and deep respect was due to the town's head of cultural affairs, Klemens Unger and his colleagues, mainly to the keeper of archives, Dr. Heinrich Wanderwitz, and cultural historian

Dr. Eugen Trapp, who did their very best to set up and advance the Regensburg application. Also, according to Schaidinger, the relevant bodies of the Federal Republic of Germany, who were the actual applicants, and had supported the schedule throughout in a very engaged manner, contributed majorly to its success. He also mentioned the good cooperation with the Bavarian State Ministry for Science, Research, and the Arts.

Regensburg had endeavoured to comply with UNESCO and ICOMOS requirements without having to change its face. UNESCO have very high standards which we deeply respect, though never had cause to fear them. This is how mayor Hans Schaidinger sums up the long time of waiting for the UNESCO decision. It was important to us not to have to pretend.

Regensburg is authentic before, during, and after the Unesco proceedings.

From 8 to 15 July 2006 the World Heritage committee met in Vilnius, in order to decide about the candidates. After the presentation of the Regensburg UNESCO application by a representative of the German Foreign Office and a following open discussion the 21 delegates' vote was announced: Regensburg is a UNESCO World Heritage Town.

The international popularity of the town will be strongly enhanced by this classification, and people all over the world will be interested.

Yet there would not be unmanageable streams of tourists, the mayor said.

Rather the structure and quality of tourism would change. Regensburg did not desire this status in order to increase the number of visitors. It mattered to us to know the cultural wealth and the historical momentum of our town in safe hands, according to Mayor Hans Schaidinger.

So Regensburg is now also officially an outstanding monument of human history. The town is conscious of its responsibility for this important heritage, and will continue now as in the past to care for and preserve this wealth for its citizens as well as for all mankind.

Regensburg has long bridged the old and the new, and this is to remain the keynote of the newly created UNESCO town: The World Heritage status does not mean for us to enclose the Old Town under an imaginary glass dome. It will continue to be important to allow new life to sprout on historic ground, said Mayor Hans Schaidinger. We are extremely happy about the UNESCO decision and wish for this feeling to permeate the old town in its day to day life. The document of acceptance into the UNESCO World Heritage list will be passed in a solemn ceremonial. There has been no decision yet about the timing of the official ceremonies.

Information about Regensburg World Heritage status on <http://www.regensburg.de/>