

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

Concerning Liverpool - Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site

The 4th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage at Risk supports many of the recommendations and Draft Decision 41 COM 7A.22 in the Report to the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee on Liverpool - Maritime Mercantile City and suggests that item 12. *Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger* be accepted as proposed whilst recognising that item 11 *request to the State Party* puts Liverpool in the most serious position imaginable that by 1st February 2018 documentary evidence must be provided for *examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, with a view to considering the deletion of this property from the World Heritage List at its 42nd session.*

The Forum welcomes the news that 75% of people recently polled in the city think that Liverpool UNESCO WHS is a status worth fighting for and acknowledges the efforts of civil actors to support their WHS inscription and requests the State Party and UNESCO WHC to open an independent review into how Liverpool has reached this position that will involve all parties (including civil society) and make recommendations suggesting a way forward through dialogue and compromise to a new consensus, and that any process of mediation be given adequate time, which might include a willingness to revisit item 11 in Draft Decision 41 COM 7A.22.

The Forum regrets that civil society has had no involvement so far in the discussions that have taken place between UNESCO and the State Party and recognises that it has most to lose by the failure of politicians, developers, officials and UNESCO to reach a satisfactory conclusion. The Forum calls upon the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee to support the efforts of the citizens of Liverpool to maintain their WHS status and to recognise that it is the people of a city and not just their elected representatives and private enterprise who should be involved in the process.

Krakow, 1 July 2017