

**Resolution on the Nyenskans Fortress and other archaeological values
of the Okhta cape in St. Petersburg**

Taking into account the urgency of preserving this objects of shared cultural heritage, especially in 2018, declared the European Year of Cultural Heritage,

Taking into account the results of archaeological excavations 2006-2010, reflected in publications and reports at national and international scientific conferences,

Considering the significance of the Okhtinsky cape in the cultural landscape of St. Petersburg, which was reflected in the boundaries of component No. 540-029 "The Neva River with Banks" of the World Heritage Site No. 540, "Historical Center of St. Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments" in 1990,

Recognizing that archaeological values and the cultural landscape of the Okhta cape are an important and clear indication of the historical political, economic and cultural contacts of the peoples of Russia, Sweden, Finland, Germany and other European countries,

In response to the joint initiative of ICOMOS Russia (its St. Petersburg Branch) and ICOMOS Sweden, the members of ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) at its meeting in Nîmes (France) 19-22 September 2018 adopted the following resolution:

The archaeological values and the cultural landscape of the Okhta cape are of universal and pan-European importance for many reasons, including

- *for the understanding of the common history and cultural heritage of Sweden / Finland and Russia (which is especially important in a view of strengthening cultural contacts in today's political situation);*
- *as evidence of the importance of St. Petersburg in the European context;*
- *for understanding the topographic prerequisites for the emergence of St. Petersburg at the mouth of the Neva;*
- *the Nyenskans as a source of historical information of greatest scientific importance in itself;*
- *the Neva River and its delta as a natural phenomenon – a connecting duct between the Baltic Sea and Lake Ladoga;*
- *for the understanding of the Swedish and Russian provinces Ingermanland as a whole, including Nöteborg / Shlisselburg, settlements on the Neva shores and adjacent territories;*
- *as evidence of the trade and cultural routes running through the Russian rivers to Constantinople, since the Viking Age;*
- *for Swedish / Gotland trading traditions with Novgorod, and thus the importance for the formation of the Hanseatic League;*
- *for the knowledge of earlier fortifications and fortification systems in the area;*
- *for the understanding of St. Peterburg's predecessor, the large trading city of Nyen with a population of about 2,000 inhabitants in the late 17th century.*

In this regard, CIVVIH considers it necessary:

- 1. To recognize the value and ensure the national legislative protection of the Okhtinsky cape within the boundaries along Malookhtinsky embankment, bank of Okhta river and the continuation of the Yakornaya Street, as a landmark place, with a zoning and regime ensuring the effective preservation and museification of the archaeological remains of different eras, from the Neolithic to the early 18th century;*
- 2. To recognize the importance of the visibility of the place of the former Nyenskans Fortress in the areas of St. Petersburg and the Neva coasts by urban planning, architecture and landscape design and cultural landscape regeneration;*
- 3. In connection with the fortress it could be possible to erect a building that embodies the image of the Nyenskans Fortress, which corresponds to its five-bastion composition, limited in height, having a flat silhouette without perceptible vertical accents, in a neutral (non-aggressive) color gamut;*
- 4. To carry out an Historic Impact Assessment study concerning the impact of a new building on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Site "Historical Center of St. Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments";*
- 5. It is absolutely necessary to consider the predominance of the cultural and educational function in a new building, including in its composition the museum-archaeological remains of all epochs and the museum of the history of the Okhta cape, reflecting its importance in Russian, Swedish and European history;*
- 6. To submit an appeal to the World Heritage Committee, the Administration of St. Petersburg, the Government of the Russian Federation and the management of the land-owner Gazprom with a request to take into account the opinion of ICOMOS in deciding the further fate of the Okhta cape.*