



The Prosecco Region: A UNESCO area out of control and at risk of overbuilding

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Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

- **PAN** was founded in 1982. PAN is an **international network** of over **600 organisations** representing more than **90 countries** with five independent, collaborating regional centres, one per continent.
- **PAN** works to replace the use of synthetic pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.
- **PAN Europe** is the PAN representative in Europe and brings together **42 organisations** from across Europe.
- **PAN Italy** is a member of PAN Europe and act at local, regional, and national level.

Veneto Region

UNESCO areas at risk



In the **Veneto Region** we have **12 UNESCO certified sites**, but **three** in particular are suffering from environmental and urban planning problems:

- 1 . Venice and its lagoon certified cultural site** in 1987.
In 2019 venetian associations denounced problems : risk of **large ships** (524 cruises planned in 2020), **excess tourism**, air and water pollution, exodus of residents, exceptional "high tides" risk and the inadequacy - in the face of the expected eustatism of the MOSE, **lagoon pollution for pesticides** and agricultural chemical fertilizers.
- 2 . The Dolomites certified as natural site** in 2009.
In a dossier of December 2019, 11 Associations report problems of: **new ski resorts**, **strong urbanization** and new roads, large events at high altitude, **uncontrolled tourist pressure**.
- 3 . The Prosecco hills certified as cultural site** in 2019.



Prosecco hills: a contentious UNESCO World Heritage Nominee





- Known for its world famous sparkling wine, **Prosecco DOCG** in Treviso (Italy) has been **nominated in Baku on July 7, 2019** a **Cultural UNESCO World Heritage**.
- The nomination of Prosecco DOCG has been highly contentious: In July 2018 in Manama, the WH Committee **postponed the decision to Baku** in 2019.
- The region is covered by vineyards with intensive wine production **where synthetic pesticides are intensively used**.



- **ICOMOS did not carry out field inspections before this second site evaluation.**
- **ICOMOS ignored the serious concerns expressed by the resident population of the region for pesticides contamination, deforestation, excavations and changes in land use (made also after the UNESCO certification).**



Deforestation for vineyards September 2019



Tarzo

A GOLF COURSE TURNED INTO A VINEYARD

August 2019



Refrontolo



AN OUT OF CONTROL UNESCO CERTIFICATION PROCESS



- **ICOMOS International** released a positive assessment however with **15 major recommendations** (almost admonitions) to the Veneto Region,

- But the evaluation of the **WH Centre in Paris** contains only **14 of those 15 recommendations** and omitted the last (**15th**) recommendation, which states:

*"Ensuring that all major **projects that could impact on the property are communicated** to the World Heritage Centre in line with **Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines** for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention".*



▪ **Paragraph 172** of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (WHC.17 / 01 - 12 July 2017), reads:

“The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved”.

- The omission of the 15th recommendation **takes away the responsibility of the WH Centre in Paris** and effectively prevents it from monitoring times, costs and, more importantly, the implementation of the 14 other recommendations for future modifications and improvement.
- This lack of monitoring **would be considered unacceptable** in any other Quality Management System because it contradicts the **principle of continuous improvement**, as is foreseen, for example, in the International Standards of Quality Mngt Systems: ISO9000, ISO14000, EMAS, and in the European Biological Regulation n.848 / 2018.



A REGIONAL LAW FOR WIDESPREAD HOTELS

- By suppressing the 15th recommendation, the **UNESCO WH Centre grants the Veneto Region** the freedom to legislate in a **manner contrary** to the directives of paragraph 172.
- This has allowed the Veneto Region to issue an **ad hoc amendment** to the Regional **Law "omnibus", n.29 of 25 July 2019**, in which 'Article. 13' was inserted with the title: "*Re-use of structures in the **agricultural area** for **purposes of tourist lease** or for purposes of classification as a dependency of a **widespread hotel**".*
- The amendment was approved on 17 July 2019, **only 10 days after the approval by UNESCO**, on 7 July 2019.
- This new law concerns the **whole Veneto Region**, as confirmed by the **Regional Councilor** for Tourism, Federico Caner, **however it was actually designed with a focus on the Prosecco Hills** with the opportunity for the Regional Council **to establish a list** of the municipalities concerned.



- This sudden amendment allows the political parties within the Veneto Regional Council **to bypass usual procedures**, which normally require a public debate with the relevant commission and responsible persons.
- The amendment enables an **infinite number of changes** and **exceptions** to be made to far too many existing laws, including those concerning urban planning, landscape, quarrying, intensive farming, sewage, etc.
- The controls are made more complicated and a large number of possible exemptions have been added. That impacts on the territory, **particularly in agricultural – vernacular areas**.

- The regional law on the **diffused hotel** does not provide for **any protection of "vernacular architecture"** either on the UNESCO Hills or in the Veneto.

- This law on the **diffused hotel** in fact transgresses **two recommendations** of ICOMOS UNESCO:

- 1 – the 2nd which states: "*b) **Providing detailed mapping and inventories** of the attributes of the property (**particularly the vernacular**, historic or modern architecture and settlements), with a clear distinction of the contents of the property and the buffer zone, and including inventories of flora and fauna*",

- 2 - the 6th which states: "*f) **Improve the state of conservation** of the buildings in the property and in the buffer zone, in particular **vernacular architecture**, based on an accurate inventory and evaluation of conditions*".



- Mr. Federico Caner (Regional Councilor for Tourism) confirms that the law will authorize the transformation of existing chicken coops, tool sheds, stables, barns, slums and garages in the agricultural area *"either for tourist rental or to be classified as an annex of a multi-building hotel"*.
- These buildings will not be subjected to construction fees and their volumes may be up to 120 cubic meters, a **derogation from the law on land consumption**.
- This is a significant deviation from what the WH Committee declared in Baku: *"Invite all Party States to **prioritize the effective protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties** situated on their territories in consistency with the "Policy Document for the **integration of a sustainable development perspective** into the processes of the World Heritage Convention";*



WE ASK



to WH Centre and IUCN take action on problems submitted to you, concerning World Heritage property no. 1571rev (**Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene**),

in accordance with § 174 of the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention (1972),

with a **request to verify** the facts described , and reflect it, if confirmed, in your considerations and **decision-making** relating to this property.



WE RECOMMEND

To the WH COMMITTEE

**the reintegration of the 15th
recommendation:**

**outlined by the ICOMOS International
document "2019/whc19-43com-inf8B1.Add"
and**

**omitted from the WH Center UNESCO in
Paris report "2019/whc19-43com-8B-Add"
and from the WH Committee document
"2019 / whc / 19 / 43.com / 18".**



To the ITALIAN STATE

make public the projects that implement the 14 UNESCO recommendations as they are presented in the following 3 documents:

- 1) *"2019/whc19-43com-inf8B1.Add"* of **ICOMOS International,**
- 2) *"2019/whc19-43com-8B-Add"* of the **WH Center UNESCO in Paris,**
- 3) *"2019/whc/19/43.com/18"* of the **UNESCO WH Committee.**



THANK YOU