

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref.: 35/PP/MT

Paris, 19 May 2020

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) was recently alerted by the Austrian National Committee of ICOMOS (ICOMOS AUSTRIA) to the bankruptcy proceedings in the matter of the Achenseebahn, and the resulting possible destruction or sale of the equipment of this historic railway.

ICOMOS AUSTRIA has advised that the Achenseebahn is the oldest rack railway in Austria still authentically in operation. It is also understood to be the oldest such railway in Europe still operated by steam locomotives.

ICOMOS understands that legal protection of the railway ensemble as a unit is not possible under current Austrian national law, and that the Achenseebahn as a working railway is therefore at considerable risk. The sale or destruction of the Achenseebahn or some of its components would represent a great cultural loss, both for Austria and for the international railway history community.

We therefore urge you to consider preserving, restoring and improving the Achenseebahn, rather than selling or demolishing it. Austria has long been at the forefront of heritage conservation and restoration, as exemplified by the Semmering Railway which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998. The Achenseebahn presents another great opportunity to set an outstanding example in this field.

We sincerely hope that you will find the means to safeguard this historic railway in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Phillips
Secretary General

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