

**URBANISM WATCH**

Urbanism of Prizren under  
Constant Watch

17 October 2013, Prizren

Communiqué #4

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2013 Progress Report confirms degradation of cultural heritage from illegal constructions**

Kosovo 2013 Progress Report released by the European Commission has corroborated concerns of civil society in Prizren and Kosovo on the degradation of cultural heritage. The report published on Wednesday explicitly finds that, "Business interests frequently prevail over interests of the cultural heritage. At the same time, the European Commission, in the section of cultural rights of this Report, has called for "Robust action needs to be taken to stop illegal construction and to correct illegal construction which has already taken place."

For a long period of time EC Ma Ndryshe has been closely tracking construction activities in the Historic Centre of Prizren. Throughout this time monitoring staff have provided countless evidence of illegal constructions, which as a consequence are destroying cultural heritage of this zone. Above all, during our mission engagement, we have provided specific evidences and cases of urban degradation in Prizren, by calling on for institutional action. Documentation of cases of urban degradation was and continues to be a central commitment of our work, always expecting the attention of local and central institutions for preventive and punitive actions.

We deem that such plain-spoken language of the European Commission in relation to the degradation of cultural heritage should be understood as a red flag and critical appeal for institutions of Kosovo. As of the Historic Centre of Prizren, this message must be very carefully read and translated into immediate action by the municipal authorities of Prizren. Moreover, both the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Spatial Planning hold direct responsibility for ensuring urban order in Prizren. Therefore, EC Ma Ndryshe reiterates its request for immediate action of state institutions for rescuing cultural heritage from degradation resulting from illegal constructions.

Sincerely,

Valon Xhabali, Project Coordinator  
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe  
Saraçët Street, No. 5 – Prizren & Zeki Shulemaja Street, No. 2 – Pristina  
[www.ecmandryshe.org](http://www.ecmandryshe.org) & [info@ecmandryshe.org](mailto:info@ecmandryshe.org)  
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771

**URBANISM WATCH**

Urbanism of Prizren under  
Constant watch

is financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society

