

## THE EDİRNE DECLARATION

The participants of the “INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on MANAGEMENT PLAN ISSUES IN MEDITERRANEAN” held in honour of Prof. Dr. *Cevat Erder* on the dates of November 16-17, 2009 and the members of “ICOMOC – COMMISSION OF HISTORICAL CITIES MEDITERRANEAN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING”

Serve their gratitude to the Municipality of Edirne for their hospitality,

With reminding that the cultural assets are important elements helping the different countries to converge with each other,

That the activities started out by the Municipality of Edirne in order to conserve and improve the natural and cultural values owned by the City of Edirne, which is a multicultural and multilayered city, shall be carried out continuously and without cease,

That the activities conserving and improving the City of Edirne cannot be solely and completely carried out by the local authorities, and through all the processes, the central authority and local actors shall perform their duties about the issue

And

by dealing with the issues of carrying out the introducing “THE MOSQUE AND SOCIAL COMPLEX OF SELİMİYE / WORLD HERITAGE CANDIDATE SITE”, which has taken part among the purposes of this symposium and this platform of discussion honored by the international experts, preparing the management plan about the mosque, arousing the attentions of the parties in our country and the public opinion,

The following issues have been decided to be announced to the public:

1. The City of Edirne is one of the authentic settlements found in its region with a history of 2000 years and its cultural and natural values,
2. The city, which has began to gain its existing identity by 15<sup>th</sup> century, is glamorized with the original examples of Ottoman architecture. In this context, the Selimiye Mosque and its social complex, the masterpiece of the mastership period of Sinan The Architect, is one of the important structures of Edirne as well as the Empire both with its position in the city and its architectural attribution,
3. In this manner, The Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex has been entitled to take part in World Cultural Heritage List for its following qualifications:
  - Being a masterpiece of the creative human genius,
  - Being a true and qualitative example of the level reached in architecture, construction techniques, material usage and urban planning on its region,
  - Being a representative of a still existing culture,
  - Being an exceptional symbol of a structure model with considering its integrity in design, monumentality, mastership in the usage of architectural elements and ornamentations,
  - And as being a building complex embodying various values including authenticity, monumentality, architecture, technique, history, art etc.

4. It will be appropriate to deem the buildings such as The Uc Serefeli Mosque, The Old Mosque, The Covered Bazaar, The Caravanserai of Rustem Pasa and the Peykler Madrassa, which are the important buildings of their period and component parts of the historical center, as a buffer zone.
5. Also the Social Complex of II. Bayezid, which is among the important buildings of its era, and its environmental area shall be deemed and evaluated as a secondary historical area.
6. The Municipality of Edirne has prepared and applied a reconstruction plan for protection for the protection areas of the city. It is important to integrate this plan, which is the first stage of the urban protection and improvement, with a management plan. With this regard, the attempt to prepare such a plan covering all the protection areas handled by the Municipality of Edirne and supported by the other partners has been received positively.

It is hoped that the bureaucratic difficulties will be overcome, the financial sources will increase and vary, staff with sufficient number and qualifications will be employed in time. The attitudes of the executives of the municipality and other local authorities indicate that these hopes will become realized in a short time.

7. Turkey does not have much experience on area management and management planning, and it has no application example about these issues. But the background information found in academy and bureaucracy, international examples and models indicate us that an applicable and sustainable management plan including the matters such as information management, process management, financial management, and risk management can be prepared in a reasonable period.
8. It has been appreciated as an indicator of care and respect shown to the cultural heritage by the Municipality of Edirne that, the landscaping and arrangement operations about the Selimiye Mosque and its environment has been made subject to a national project contest.
9. It is believed that spatial arrangement operations will also contribute to the urban identity alongside the operations like management plan, landscaping, which require processes in order to be accrued and carried out.

The participants of the symposium emphasize that the legal difficulties will be handled, it is essential that all the partners shall believe in and support the issue, the local authorities shall conduct policies that are participative, transparent, and consensus-seeking and shall be cooperative and harmonious with all its relevant agencies and institutes.

The participants of the symposium also think that using the cities with contemporary functions will create an economical and social recovery and the sub and superstructure required for this new usage shall not shrink the cultural and natural values, and in this context, they wish and request the sub and superstructure facilities about the winter games, which is planned to be held in 2014, in the city of Sochi, to be sensitive about the values of the city.

Edirne  
November 17, 2009