

Nomination of
The **GREAT**
SPAS of Europe



for inclusion on the
World Heritage
List

Volume I: Foreword and Contents

The GREAT
SPAS *of Europe*

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Colonnade in
Mariánské Lázně

Foreword

I am honoured to introduce an exceptional international nomination project that has grown out of an initiative of the Mayors of famous spa towns in several countries, who wished to cooperate and prove the outstanding values of the European spa tradition. This bottom-up approach has confirmed that international cooperation rightfully lies at the heart of the World Heritage Convention. With the advent of serial transnational nominations, a mechanism has been created to enable States Parties to collaborate closely in the protection and management of Outstanding Universal Value across borders and through the sharing of best practice.

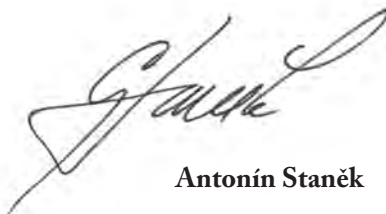
In my view, this nomination represents an admirable example of how such cooperation, rather than competition, is important for the implementation of the Convention. This excellent objective of establishing one common serial transnational property has brought together mechanisms of cooperation, exchange of ideas and the search for the best possible results. The nomination process itself led us to improved knowledge of what is important, and the associated means of protection of the values of spa heritage.

It has been a pleasure for us and the whole International Steering Group to help this initiative of spa towns through the lengthy process of preparing all necessary materials. There have been many intensive discussions concerning both technical issues and the selection of the component parts of this series and many lasting professional relations have been established. For the Czech Republic it has been a unique experience to coordinate such a complex transnational project and we have learned a lot during the evolution of this nomination. The project has also resulted in a great deal of new knowledge, learning and understanding of the diverse aspects of the cultural heritage represented by *The Great Spas of Europe*.

I would like to express my personal support for the submission of this nomination - which represents the culmination of important research undertaken during the last decade, and to the continuation of cooperation on many levels which includes international professionals and experts, experienced site-managers and heritage specialists, and all supported throughout by the spa towns' Mayors who have found new contacts, discovered useful experience and made new friendships.

The nomination process has involved dozens of experts from all seven countries involved, and hundreds of people have contributed to specific parts of these nomination documents. Tens of thousands of our citizens and their communities are looking forward to the results of this process and are proud of the architecturally rich heritage that has been preserved in their towns and adjoining landscapes which contain the therapeutic and healing springs.

I sincerely believe this nomination dossier comprehensively expresses the Outstanding Universal Value of *The Great Spas of Europe*.



Antonín Staněk

Minister of Culture of
the Czech Republic





Former Luitpoldbad,
Bad Kissingen

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