

**URBANISM WATCH**

Urbanism of Prizren  
under constant watch

22 April 2016, Prizren,

Reaction #31

**Press Release**

**35 cases of Task Force: Buying time and avoiding the responsibility**

Inspectorate of the Municipality of Prizren earlier this week announced delivery of notices to owners of residential and business buildings to avoid the exceeding or violations in relation to construction permits, which were identified after the review of 35 cases of Task Force for the Historic Centre of Prizren

In the minutes of the Task Force meeting, dated 10 February 2016, in the agenda was "the examination of 35 cases in HCP building, with a detailed report of the Task Force Secretariat and suggestions that should be taken by Task Force", where the cases were presented.

Based on the data presented in this report, out of the 35 cases reviewed, approximately it emerges that:

- In 8 cases, the work is in compliance with the project.
- In 1 case, construction has not commenced.
- In 9 cases, plastic windows were installed instead of wooden ones
- In 5 cases, there are irregularities in fences, hedges, showcases or facades
- In 11 cases, there are several exceeding of different nature from the construction permits
- In 1 case, the outline has been exceeded

This balance of the cases highlights the fact that the Task Force for the Historic Centre of Prizren, respectively institutions comprising this body decided to continue with the practice installed for years by the competent authorities to avoid the responsibility for establishing urban order in the Historic Centre of Prizren.

EC Ma Ndryshe considers that the establishment of urban order in the Historic Centre of Prizren requires energetic actions by the institutions that have legal and constitutional responsibilities that are part of Task Force, to deal with extreme cases, and not to buy time by listing the works conducted in compliance with the projects or deviations with PVC windows.

Whereas, the Task Force for the Historic Centre of Prizren handled the above-mentioned cases, on the ground, there were serious cases, i.e. demolition or burning down of protected cultural heritage buildings, which caused the loss of precious values of the historic city.

In addition, EC Ma Ndryshe estimates that the violations in the centre of Prizren have no time limit, because, even before the adoption of the Law on Historic Center of Prizren there was sufficient legislation for establishing urban order, therefore the Task Force needs to change the approach and deal with all violations, in order to ensure implementation of the law, accurately, equally and without discrimination.

What we have seen so far, in terms of the actions of local institutions in Str. "Wesley Clark" in Prizren and those of central level in Prevall, shows that the destruction of illegal constructions were carried out in minor cases and the process was stopped there, though declaratively it is said that the law will be implemented in all parts of the municipality, without distinction. It is very likely that such a selective application of the law is also going on in the Historic Centre, where "35 cases" would only serve as an excuse for allegedly action for enforcement of the urban order.

All together there are about 20 laws and institutional mechanisms for the protection of the Historic Centre of Prizren, while in reality the procedure for the treatment of damage to the cultural heritage is quite simple and requires neither laws nor additional mechanisms. Paradoxically Historical Centre is the most protected in the legal and institutional framework in Kosovo, even though in practise is the most degraded.

Best Regards,  
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