

Milano, Feb. 10, 2007

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**Subject: Cinqueterre, Italy, included in the World Heritage List**

In June 1996, a portion of the Liguria coastline, called CINQUETERRE, extending from Levanto to Portovenere (province of la Spezia) has been included in the World Heritage List in consideration of the exceptional beauty of the landscape and the century-old work of man resulting in the terracing of the mountains facing the Mediterranean. One of the provisions was the preservation of the environment against any disasters being caused by natural elements or tourist development projects and other man-made alterations.

Unfortunately, in 2006 the municipalities of Riomaggiore and Vernazza together with the Province of La Spezia, the Liguria Region and the consent of the Cinqueterre National Park Authority have approved the construction of a **two hundred meter-long** hotel along the coast between **Corniglia and Manarola** which will consist of **8 000 cu mts**, complete of swimming pool and other amenities.

the negative reactions by local environmentalists and residents as well as the open criticism heralded by **Il Giornale dell'Architettura** – n. 44 and 46 published in October and December 2006 – have had no impact on the decision-makers only too eager to sponsor the considerable economic interests involved in the project.

The impact on the landscape is going to be devastating so much so that the media are ironically referring to the creation of a sixth village (the Cinqueterre from now on to be designated as Seiterre). Furthermore, the extremely fragile Blue Path connecting Manarola and Corniglia along which the new complex will be built is subject to dangerous landslides: at the moment it is so severely affected that it has been closed for an indefinite period of time. I fail to see how further cementification of the mountain can improve the landscape and the safety for both the path and the visitors.

The structure being planned conflicts directly and heavily with the provisions by the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, in particular with the articles 4 and 5. a), c), d).

In accordance with the article 11, sub-section 4, of the Convention, I thereby request the intervention of the Committee in order to list the Cinqueterre among the **sites in danger** and at the same time ensure that this environmental disaster be stopped on behalf not only of the Italian people but of all humankind.

Yours truly,

Maria Grazia Campari, lawyer

As a contributing member of the Unesco World Heritage Centre, I am e-mailing the present message to the Unesco Centre site.