

UNESCO: Valletta's setting not safeguarded?

Reading the World Heritage Committee's decision against what was reported

THE CLAIM

“...the current planning policies and regulations do not sufficiently safeguard the setting of the property...”

UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Decision 47 COM 7B.114, City of Valletta, 2025

Adopted at the Committee's 47th session; read in full on 14 October 2026.

The claim reports the decision accurately. We did not test the policies themselves.

VERDICT

SUPPORTED

*The decision says what the claim says;
it does not threaten delisting.*

SUPPORTED

LARGELY
SUPPORTED

NOT
SUBSTANTIATED

MISLEADING

CONTRADICTED

MAIN RESULTS

10 of 10

Phrases of the claim found

Concern about planning policies, height controls, buffer zone and the report date are all in the adopted text.

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Documents to be revised

The Views and Vistas Analysis, the 2006 North Harbour Local Plan, the 2014 Floor Area Ratio guide and the 2022 Grand Harbour Local Plan.

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Mentions of the Danger List

The decision has no request about delisting or the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Welcomed

Buffer zone proposal

The Committee welcomes the buffer zone proposal and asks for it to be developed, especially its northern boundary.

1 Dec 2026

Updated report due

For the Committee's 49th session. The decision gives no reason for the date.

FAIR TO SAY

The Opposition and the Ministry each summarised the decision as reported; each stretches one half of the text (Section 4 of the report).

WHAT WOULD SETTLE IT

☐ Planning Authority: the revised Views and Vistas Analysis.

☐ Malta's updated report, due 1 December 2026.

☐ ICOMOS's technical review of the Views and Vistas Analysis.

☐ Revised local plans and buffer zone, when published.