

International Dark-Sky Association
ISTIL - Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologia dell'Inquinamento Luminoso
Venetostellato - Coordinamento veneto contro l'inquinamento luminoso
with the collaboration of:
Cielobuio - Coordinamento nazionale per la protezione del cielo notturno

**Light pollution and the protection of the night environment
Venice: Let's save the night**

*IDA Regional Meeting
May 3, 2002 - Palazzo Papadopoli, Venice, S. Polo 1364*

with the patronage of:



UNESCO Regional Bureau
for Science in Europe (ROSTE)



Regione Veneto

Declaration of Venice

We the participants at the IDA/ISTIL/VenetoStellato Regional Meeting “Light pollution and the protection of the night environment – Venice: Save the night” held in Venice the May 3, 2002 under the patronage of UNESCO Regional Office for Science in Europe (ROSTE) and the Veneto Region,

- noting the serious degradation of the night sky and the high levels of light pollution in Italy, in Europe and in the World, as documented by the satellite measurements, the Report of the Light Pollution Science and Technology Institute (ISTIL - Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologia dell'Inquinamento Luminoso), the project of the Italian Ministry of Education “Gli studenti fanno vedere le stelle” and the documents of the International Dark-Sky Association;
- noting the Declaration on the Reduction of Adverse Environmental Impacts on Astronomy of the meeting IAU/ICSU/UNESCO (Paris, June 30 - July 2, 1992) which declared the night sky, with its beautiful stars and its message of our place in the Universe, a precious treasure of all humanity and an heritage belonging to all of humanity to be preserved, visible and clean, to the actual and future generations;
- noting the declaration of the IAU/COSPAR/UN Special Environmental Symposium “Preserving the astronomical sky” (Vienna, Austria, July 12 –16, 1999) held as Technical Forum of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) which recalled that outer space has been defined as the province of all mankind to be protected from harmful contamination and adverse changes of all kinds and recommended that member states should act to control pollution of the sky by light and other causes;
- noting the repeated appeals of the International Dark-Sky Association to all countries of the world to preserve our heritage of starry skies and to protect the nighttime environment by using only quality outdoor lighting, thereby conserving energy;

(i) ask all the World's heads of government

to protect the nighttime environment from light pollution so that future generations will be able to see our magnificent starry skies, our only window to the infinite universe where we live, a

priceless heritage for all of humanity, for countless centuries the companion of life of our grandfathers, an inspiration for humanity's culture, art, literature, philosophy and religion, fundamental object of scientific studies, a key element of educational growth;

(ii) ask UNESCO and UN

to restart the process to declare the night sky a Heritage of Humanity; in particular, with the aim to protect the integrity of the night sky and our perception of the universe, to preserve professional and amateur astronomical research and scientific study, to rationalise and improve the quality of outdoor lighting, to reduce the phenomena of dazzle and visual fatigue produced by light pollution, improving the safety of highway travel, to reduce energy consumption for outdoor night lighting, to safeguard the natural biological cycles of the man and the other living creatures, to conserve the ecological equilibrium and the natural nocturnal landscape,

(iii) ask all the World's governmental assemblies

to adopt laws against light pollution and for the control of the night sky brightness, with effective provisions like those of the law of the Regione Lombardia n. 17 of March 27, 2000 "Misure urgenti in tema di risparmio energetico ad uso di illuminazione esterna e di lotta all'inquinamento luminoso" and the relative Regulations D.G.R. n. 7/6162 of September 20, 2001, recognized for protecting the nighttime environment, for saving energy, and for improving safety and visibility,

(iv) and finally, ask the Venice authorities

that the nocturnal environment of the City of Venice be considered part of the historical, artistic and environmental heritage of the city and that it be protected and safeguarded, with its characteristics that make it unique; that its night external lighting systems, both public and private, be planned and installed not only in the full respect of the law for the prevention of the light pollution of the Veneto Region, but also adopting the most effective measures in order to limit the effects of the light pollution and adopting great care to the tradition when choosing the light levels, as deserved by such a world renowned historical city; that the installation of mercury vapor lamps be suspended and those already installed be replaced in accordance with previous points.

COSPAR= Committee on Space Research

IAU= International Astronomical Union

ICSU= International Council for Science

IDA= International Dark-Sky Association

ISTIL= Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologia dell'Inquinamento Luminoso, Italy

ROSTE= UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Europe

UN= United Nations

UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization