

## To all Members of the Europa Nostra Council & Board

*Dear All,*

At the start of the New Year and the New Decade, we would like to take a moment to look back at what we have jointly achieved in 2019 and to share with you our vision for what lies ahead in 2020.

### Looking back at 2019: selected milestones

2019 was yet another busy and fruitful year, and we take this opportunity to recall few selected highlights.

- **Europa Nostra turned 56 years!** And we are very proud to be widely recognised as **THE European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage**.
- **On the driving seat for heritage policy and advocacy.** This year, we have greatly contributed to place cultural heritage at the top of EU political priorities. We effectively mobilised to make sure that cultural heritage was included among the EU's priorities for 2019-2024. Similarly, our thorough advocacy campaign to bring back the word 'culture' to the portfolio title of Commissioner Gabriel bore fruit and we now look forward to our first meeting with Ms Gabriel on 29 January to discuss our future cooperation.
- **Our conviction: to place cultural heritage at the very heart of the European project.** This ambitious plea has been recently conveyed through our [Paris Manifesto: Relançons l'Europe par la culture et le patrimoine culturel !](#), presented on 30 October at the European Policy Debate.
- **Brussels Office - Next level:** our Brussels-based Staff will be reinforced as of January 2020 working from a more spacious office space located at number 45 in the same street as before - rue de Trèves in the heart of the European quarter, where we have moved at the end of the year.
- **Engaging with the new generation.** Ever since the launch of our free membership for young people under 30 this year, more than 100 young members from over 15 countries have joined our network. We have also organised an innovative and enriching "capacity building programme" last June in Athens which brought together cc. 60 young heritage professionals and cc. 60 Board and Council members.
- **Stronger together!** During 2019, we have **built new partnerships and solidified the existing ones** with key heritage stakeholders, including a.o., the [Global Heritage Fund](#), the [Climate Heritage Network](#) (CHN), [eTwinning](#), [the Hay Festival](#), [the Virtual Multimodal Museum](#), the [European Heritage Tribune](#) and many more.
- **Embarking on new journeys.** We successfully kicked-off 2 European cooperation projects funded by the European Union in which we are partners: **Food is Culture** (funded by Creative Europe) and **ILUCIDARE** (funded by Horizon 2020). In addition, 2 other projects in which we participate were selected for funding and will start in 2020: **IMPACTOUR** (funded by Horizon 2020) and the **Peer-learning scheme on cultural heritage for cities and regions** (Tender by DG EAC).
- **Memorable "Les Assises européennes du patrimoine culturel 2019".** Our Paris Summit successfully took place on 27-31 October 2019 in Paris. Around 10 different

events were organised, circa 1 200 delegates from 35 different countries attended. This Summit was yet another milestone, and we are constantly raising the bar!

- Through this year's **European Heritage Awards Scheme**, 28 laureates from 16 countries - including a special award for the Paris Fire Brigade, 7 Grand Prix winners and a Public Choice Award - were rewarded. This year, we also launched two new **ILUCIDARE Special Prizes**: one for heritage-led innovation and one for heritage-led diplomacy. And together with our Portuguese colleagues, we have awarded the **Helena Vaz da Silva Award to Ms Fabiola Gianotti, Director General of CERN** (European Organisation for Nuclear Research).

- **Bringing the 7 Most Endangered to new heights.** An increased annual financial support from the **European Investment Bank Institute** has been secured, which will allow for issuing an annual list of 7 Most Endangered sites as of 2020 and to give a welcome boost to our staff capacity to coordinate efficiently this important campaigning programme.

### Looking ahead: our vision & roadmap

While the above mentioned developments confirm that we are heading in the right direction, we shall continue striving for maximum quality and impact as well as for constant improvement in the New Year and beyond.

- We shall build new and stronger alliances and partnerships, and **widen our network of members and supporters**. We very much count on our Council and Board Members as multipliers of Europa Nostra's messages and to help us recruit new members!

- We are committed to organize another high-profile '**European Cultural Heritage Summit**' in 2020, this time in **Brussels on 20-23 June 2020**. As expressed in our Paris Manifesto, during our 2020 Brussels Summit we shall present a series of concrete proposals for action to EU Institutions and the Member States. With such proposals, we hope to make yet another tangible and significant contribution specifically to EU heritage policy making, and more generally to the Future of Europe. We shall also prepare the **Europa Nostra's Strategic Plan for the next 5 years (2020-2025)**

- We shall work expeditiously to **safeguard Europe's most fragile gems**, also considering the unprecedented current climate crisis which is increasingly affecting cultural heritage. We shall make the most out of the increased financial resources of the 7 Most Endangered scheme to further support local experts and communities to save their invaluable heritage assets. We shall also contribute to the **European Conference organised in Dubrovnik on 27-28 February 2020 by the Croatian Presidency of the EU "Fostering European Cooperation for Cultural Heritage at Risk"** which will lead to the adoption of conclusions by the EU Council in May 2020.

- We shall continue being a **reference for excellence and quality** in cultural heritage, and we shall seek to further reinforce the visibility and impact of our Awards scheme. We are looking forward to a more diversified pool of applicants in 2020, also thanks to the new ILUCIDARE special prizes!

- At a transitional time towards a new institutional cycle, a crucial **new phase of our advocacy and policy work** is ahead of us. We shall build and nurture trustful relationships with new EU leaders and incoming Institutions, and we shall strengthen our position as the most forceful advocates of cultural heritage and its multiple benefits. We

shall also continue working tirelessly to secure the legacy of the historic European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 with the ambition to **make this New Decade, a true "European Decade for Cultural Heritage"**.

· Last but not least, we shall **add our "European Voice" to the mobilisation of the global heritage movement**, whenever this is appropriate (e.g. in the case of climate heritage action or in the case of threats to cultural heritage in the event of political or armed conflicts like the statement we published last Tuesday).

We know that we can count on your most valuable support to achieve the above-mentioned goals, and we are grateful for your dedication and commitment to the work of Europa Nostra.

We are looking forward to our close collaboration throughout 2020 with renewed energy and commitment, with fresh enthusiasm and impetus, to achieve even greater results together.

***Also on behalf of the whole Europa Nostra team based in The Hague and Brussels,  
Yours,  
Sneška***