

Joint press release by Europa Nostra and the European Cultural Foundation

Europa Nostra, the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe, endorses the "we are more!" campaign

Amsterdam/Brussels, 24 June – During the European Heritage Congress 2011 (8-11 June), which was organised by Europa Nostra in Amsterdam with the kind support of the European Cultural Foundation, the Europa Nostra Council decided to join the “we are more!” campaign. This Europe-wide advocacy campaign, developed in partnership with European Cultural Foundation, calls for an increased support to culture in the next EU budget (for the period 2014-2020). Until today, the “we are more!” manifesto has been signed by almost 14,000 supporters from all over Europe.

“Recently, cultural organisations in Europe started a campaign with a symbolic title: We are more! We are indeed more than the sum of our parts. More than a mere sum of historic monuments and sites of Europe. More than the sum of jobs created in the cultural field. More than the sum of cultural “consumers” or heritage volunteers....We are the soul and the spirit of Our Europe! ” stressed Europa Nostra's President, Maestro Plácido Domingo, during his closing speech at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony on 10 June at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

"And no price should be too high to preserve this soul and this spirit. And to let it flourish, as a source of joy and inspiration, for the new generation of proud and responsible citizens, of Europe and indeed of the world", concluded Maestro Domingo.

Europa Nostra will actively encourage its members and supporters and the public at large to sign this manifesto thus collecting as many citizens' signatures as possible. A manifesto “signature box” is now available also on the website of Europa Nostra <http://www.europanostra.org/news/158/>.

During the constitutive meeting of the European Heritage Alliance, the so-called “Alliance 3.3”, which brought together over 25 European and International network or organisations working in the wider field of cultural and natural heritage, and which was also held during the European Heritage Congress 2011 in Amsterdam, Europa Nostra urged also other European colleagues to join the “we are more!” campaign.

“Europa Nostra supports the “we are more!” campaign since we believe that culture should become a stronger priority for the European Union, both in terms of funding and in terms of policy-making”, stressed Snéska Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic, Secretary General of Europa Nostra. “Cultural Heritage, just as the arts and other fields of culture, constitutes a huge resource for the cohesion of our society, for the prosperity of our economy and for the sustainable future of our living environment. Let us also recall that article 3.3. of the new Treaty of the European Union, imposes on the EU the obligation to ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.”

Katherine Watson, Director of the European Cultural Foundation concisely summarises, “We are more than meets the eye, we are more when we are acting together.”



**The Voice of
Cultural Heritage
in Europe**

**La Voix du
patrimoine culturel
en Europe**

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Note for the editors:

The **“we are more!” campaign** was set up by Culture Action Europe, the umbrella advocacy organisation for the arts and culture in Europe, in strategic partnership with the European Cultural Foundation. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to contribute to a strengthened recognition of the role of arts and heritage in the development of Europe’s society and economy. The campaign’s main objectives focus on improving the quality and quantity of support that the sector receives from 2 key EU policy and funding instruments, namely 1) the Culture Programme providing direct support to cultural co-operation projects, and 2) the EU regional development funds supporting cultural interventions as key tools for Europe’s social, economic and territorial development. www.wearemore.eu (manifesto website)

Europa Nostra is *the* voice of cultural heritage of Europe. It brings together and represents 250 non-governmental organisations, 150 associate organisations and 1500 individual members from more than 50 countries that are committed to safeguarding Europe’s cultural and natural heritage. It provides a network for dialogue, celebrates the best heritage achievements, campaigns against threats to vulnerable heritage buildings, sites and landscapes and campaigns for sustainable policies and high quality standards in heritage. Plácido Domingo is the President of Europa Nostra. www.europanostra.org

The **European Cultural Foundation** (ECF) is an independent foundation based in the Netherlands that has been operating across Europe for nearly 60 years. The ECF facilitates and catalyses cultural exchange and new forms of creative expression; shares and connects knowledge across the European cultural sector and advocates for the arts on all levels of political decision-making through its activities, programmes, grants and online platforms. www.eurocult.org

