

The Hague, 21 September 2016

Mayor of Utrecht
Mr Jan van Zanen
Korte Minrebroederstr 2
Postbus 16200
3500 CE Utrecht

Europa Nostra most concerned about possible closing of Museum Oud Amelisweerd

Dear Mayor,

The European heritage organisation Europa Nostra is most concerned about the news that the Museum Oud Amelisweerd will possibly have to close its doors. Only this year, Oud Amelisweerd won one of the European Heritage Awards, the highest honour in the heritage field in Europe.

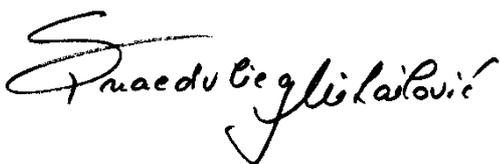
This prestigious Awards scheme, which is run by Europa Nostra in cooperation with the European Union, appraise the best heritage projects in all of Europe. The Jury lauded the Museum Oud Amelisweerd for its dedication for years to restore and conserve this delicate heritage and make it accessible to the public.

The past years were difficult for cultural bodies all over Europe. It is Europa Nostra's belief, however, that investment in heritage and culture is essential for social cohesion and economic development. Recent research, coordinated by Europa Nostra, confirmed that investments in culture and heritage give an excellent return over time. Much time and money has been invested in the restoration of the Museum Oud Amelisweerd not only by the municipality of Utrecht, several funds and institutions, but also by ordinary citizens and volunteers.

Although Europa Nostra appreciates that, in these still financially difficult times, complex deliberations must be made, we are convinced that the municipality of Utrecht together with the Museum Oud Amelisweerd and further possible sponsors and funds should be able to arrive at a workable solution. The in-depth investment in the Museum Oud Amelisweerd is well worth it and the granting of the European Heritage Award proves this clearly.

On 7 October 2016, representatives from Europa Nostra and the European Union will participate in the presentation ceremony of the European Heritage Award to the Museum Oud Amelisweerd. We sincerely hope that, during this festive event, a solid, long-term solution may be proposed by the Museum and the municipality to obviate the threat of closure.

Yours sincerely,



Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailović
Secretary General of Europa Nostra

Copy: Councillors of the City of Utrecht



**The Voice of
Cultural Heritage
in Europe**

**La Voix du
patrimoine culturel
en Europe**

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