

The Hague, 3 May 2013

**SPECIAL MESSAGE BY PLACIDO DOMINGO, PRESIDENT OF EUROPA NOSTRA
On the occasion of the 5 May gathering for L' Aquila**

*Cari Amici Storici dell'Arte,
Cari Amici di Italia Nostra e di Europa Nostra,
Cari Amici de L'Aquila,*

On behalf of Europa Nostra, the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe, I wish to congratulate you on your impressive initiative to gather thousand of art historians from all corners of Italy in the ancient but endangered city of Aquila. While regretting not to be able to be with you today in Aquila I wish to convey to you our full support and great respect for your campaign.

The Ancient city of Aquila is a gem of Italy's art and heritage. But it is also a gem of Europe's art and heritage. The rest of Europe therefore has a strong feeling of solidarity with all of you gathered today in Aquila.

Europa Nostra sincerely hopes that the new Italian government and especially the Italian new Minister of Culture, Mr Massimo Bray whose presence today in Aquila is particularly encouraging - will give a much higher attention and priority to the ancient city of Aquila. Comprehensive restoration and revitalization plans must be urgently prepared and implemented - possibly with due support from the European Union - in close consultation and cooperation not only with the scientific community but also with the citizens of Aquila. Indeed, the renaissance of Aquila cannot only be material. Its renaissance has to be carried out with and for its citizens, present and future.

Born upon the initiative of Italia Nostra, Europa Nostra is proud to celebrate today the 50th anniversary of its pan-European movement of professionals and volunteers committed to the safeguarding of Europe's cultural and natural heritage. All together, we stand ready to support every effort to save the endangered heritage of Aquila.

Yours truly,



Plácido Domingo
President of Europa Nostra



1963-2013

The Voice of
Cultural Heritage
in Europe

La Voix du
patrimoine culturel
en Europe

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