



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Minister

EUROPA NOSTRA
Sneška Quaedvlieg - Mihailović
Secretary General

Zagreb, 29 October 2019

Dear Secretary General,

It is with much regret that I could not join you this evening at the 2019 European Cultural Heritage Summit, an event that celebrates and acknowledges the values of cultural heritage, and that brings together policy makers, heritage professionals and enthusiasts, all united in the same goal: to honour, promote and safeguard cultural heritage. As an indelible part of our culture and spirit, and a symbol of our common European identity, I am happy to see cultural heritage taking the place it so deserves: at the heart of culture.

Europa Nostra is certainly an organization we are indebted to in this regard as its dedication to advancing cultural heritage and raising awareness of its importance has yielded great results. We are grateful for your collaboration with many Croatian partners both from the governmental and non-governmental sector.

Europa Nostra, alongside other organizations, has significantly contributed to the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, a singular event that has brought the cultural heritage to the fore and highlighted its key role in cultural and creative sector, creating employment, strengthening heritage skills and engaging youth participation. The year gave prominence to the invaluable and selfless work of all the heritage professionals and brought the wider public closer to the monuments they would so often overlook. These values are also aligned with the *Bucharest Declaration of the Ministers of Culture and Their Representatives on the Role of Culture in Building Europe's Future*, the *Declaration Adopted During the Informal Meeting of European Union Member State Ministers Responsible for Cultural and European Affairs in Paris* on 3 May 2019 and the *Berlin Call to Action*, of which the Republic of Croatia is one of the signatories.

The Republic of Croatia is strongly dedicated to fostering cultural heritage and will intensify its efforts in this regard during its first Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2020. Having been threatened in recent years by occurrences such as armed conflicts, climate change and its impacts, and illegal trafficking of cultural goods, not to mention the devastating fire of the Notre Dame in Paris, it is vital that we all partake in the

preservation of our common European heritage, as well as sustainable, quality management and conservation.

Wishing you much success and fruitful discussions, I congratulate Europa Nostra on this important event.

Sincerely,

Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia



Nina Obuljen Koržinek