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Written greeting of Minister of Science and Culture, Ms Hanna Kosonen

European Cultural Heritage Summit, Paris 27-30 October 2019

Distinguished delegates of the European Cultural Heritage Summit

I would like to extend my warm greetings to the Summit on behalf of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The priorities of Finland's Presidency include making the EU more competitive and socially inclusive and strengthening the EU's position as a global leader in climate action. In the field of culture, our focus is on promoting the cultural dimension of sustainable development and harnessing its potential in the EU's work for sustainable development.

I believe the role of cultural heritage is evident in this context. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage are common and valuable resources for our communities and societies. Not only is cultural heritage an integral part of culturally and socially sustainable development, but safeguarding measures can also very concretely demonstrate how heritage can promote economically and ecologically sustainable development.

Over the last few years, cultural heritage has gained more visibility and acknowledgement at the EU policy level. As one of the leading voices of civil society in Europe, Europa Nostra has contributed significantly in the European cooperation, as demonstrated by the partnerships over the very successful European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. Furthermore, Finland warmly remembers the European Heritage Congress in 2017, which was held in Finland in the spirit of the excellent partnership between Europa Nostra and the EU.

It is important to continue to develop the integrated approach of the European Year of Cultural Heritage in the future in order to foster cultural heritage as a part of the overall development work across different policy sectors. Continued European and international collaboration between professionals is essential to ensure a lasting legacy for the Year and further highlight the important topics in this field.

I wish you all fruitful discussions and a rewarding summit on European cultural heritage.

Hanna Kosonen
Minister of Science and Culture of Finland