

**Local Award Ceremony for the Fredensborg Palace Garden
10 June 2021**

*Message of congratulations by **Hermann Parzinger**,
Executive President of Europa Nostra*

*Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness,
Dear colleagues and friends,*

I very much regret not being able to be with you in the Fredensborg Palace Garden today, one of the most noteworthy gardens in all of Europe that has such great significance to the history of Denmark.

On behalf of Europa Nostra, my heartfelt congratulations to you all for this much deserved award that has been given in recognition of the multifaceted benefits and exemplary nature of your work.

All of the winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards demonstrate the multiple values that cultural heritage has for Europe and its citizens. Our shared cultural heritage, as a bridge between our past, present and future, and as a vital component of our way of life and our identity, has so much to contribute to Europe's post-pandemic recovery. Our cultural heritage is also a key resource for the building up of our resilience, for the creation of fair and more inclusive societies, for a sustainable economy and a more healthy environment.

Since its foundation in 1963, Europa Nostra has been raising awareness of the extraordinary value of cultural heritage for Europe. We have been celebrating heritage excellence through our Awards, we have been lobbying to place cultural heritage higher up on the agenda of European Institutions; and we have also been campaigning to save Europe's endangered heritage.

Our large, pan-European network is composed of over 1,000 individual members and of more than 350 member and associate organisations from across Europe and beyond. We are delighted that in a relatively smaller country such as Denmark, we are very well represented by 13 active heritage organisations and numerous individual members. We are extremely fortunate to have Europa Nostra Denmark as our country representation. We wish to pay tribute to its outgoing President, Erik Vind and also to express our best wishes to its newly elected President, Ettie Castenskiold.

*Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness,*

From 1990 to 2007, we at Europa Nostra had the unique privilege and honour of having His Royal Highness, Prince Henrik of Denmark, as our much-esteemed President. Under Prince Henrik's decisive and inspiring leadership, Europa Nostra went through a significant period of growth during which our organisation was shaped into the formidable force it is today, the strength of which we could not have achieved without his commitment, generosity and trust.

What a wonderful rounding of a circle this is then, to greet those of you gathered today on such a joyous occasion in the beautiful setting of the Fredensborg Palace Garden, one of the favorite places of Prince Henrik. We therefore wish to dedicate this celebration also to the memory of the devotion and leadership of the late His Royal Highness, Prince Henrik.

The fantastic work that we are honouring today is exemplary for many reasons. What was most notable to the Jury was the way that due consideration was equally paid to the remarkable heritage of this garden, present concerns relating to its conservation and the world it is in today, and, perhaps most importantly, the future of the garden and the people who *will* care for it.

The jury noted that “Future generations were considered in several instances during this project, for example, when choosing plants and trees to replant, climate change and its effects on the selected species were considered. The affordable management plan that was developed is also commendable in that it ensures the garden’s future”.

And this is a powerful message about our task for ensuring the safeguard of our heritage - we must always strike a balance between respecting what has come before, meeting the needs of the current world and thinking ahead for future generations. I can only imagine the difficult decisions that had to be made throughout this project but you have clearly struck a most perfect balance that takes each of these facets into account.

Dear colleagues and friends,

Let’s take our cue from this wonderful project and continue to campaign together to put culture and heritage at the centre of our present and of our future.

With renewed thanks on behalf of Europa Nostra for your wonderful contribution to the preservation of our shared heritage, I wish you a wonderful continued celebration and very much hope to see the representatives of this winning heritage project in Venice on 23 September at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony where we will host a fitting tribute to all of the winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2021.

Respectfully and cordially yours,
Hermann Parzinger
Executive President of Europa Nostra