



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Costa Carras European Citizens Award for the Safeguard of Endangered Heritage**

**launched by Europa Nostra and Elliniki Etairia**

*Brussels / The Hague / Athens, 7 March 2023*

EUROPA NOSTRA and ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage are proud to launch the **Costa Carras** **European Citizens Award for the Safeguard of Endangered Cultural and Natural Heritage***.* For over 50 years, Costa Carras worked tirelessly in favour of Greece’s and Europe’s heritage to create a more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful world for future generations. The Costa Carras European Citizens Award will celebrate the legacy of this iconic champion of Europe’s shared heritage and values, and inspire and encourage citizens to engage in defense of the values he stood for.

The Costa Carras European Citizens Award will be **presented annually to a European citizen, a group of individuals or a civil society organisation based in Europe**[[1]](#footnote-1) for a successful and exemplary campaign to mobilise the public with the view of saving endangered heritage in their country or elsewhere in Europe. The winner of the Award will receive a **monetary prize of €10,000** and a certificate.

Costa Carras (1938-2022) was a visionary conservationist, an eminent historian and scholar as well as a distinguished businessman, a humanist and an idealist – a true Greek and a true European. He became Vice-President of Europa Nostra in 1976. Under his guidance, Europa Nostra built a truly pan-European heritage movement based on fundamental human rights and shared European values. Perhaps his most enduring legacy is ELLINIKI ETAIRIA, which he founded with his wife Lydia Carras in 1972.

“*Costa strongly believed that cultural heritage and environment are two sides of the same coin, both fundamental for the well-being of human beings and societies. He pioneered and shaped the work of many. He was convinced that a strong civil society role for the protection of cultural heritage and environment is an integral part of the democratic way of life in Greece and in Europe as a whole*”, stressed **Lydia Carras**, who is the current President of ELLINIKI ETAIRIA.

The Executive President of Europa Nostra, Prof. Dr. **Hermann Parzinger**, stated: “*Costa Carras’ fighting for the beauty, integrity and authenticity of cultural and natural heritage always went hand in hand with the vital fight for peace, democracy, rule of law and human rights. By naming the European Citizens Award for the Safeguard of Endangered Cultural and Natural Heritage after Costa Carras, we wish to pay tribute to a legendary hero of Europe’s heritage and values, and inspire European citizens and civil society organisations across our continent to follow his power of example. Europa Nostra is proud to establish this prestigious Award together with ELLINIKI ETAIRIA, our country representation in Greece*.”

**Applications** for the first edition of the Costa Carras European Citizens Award for the Safeguard of Endangered Cultural and Natural Heritage **can be submitted** **by 6 April 2023**. **This** [**Application Form**](https://www.europanostra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Costa-Carras-Award-2023-Application-Form.doc) **must be completed and sent it via email** to sepi@ellinikietairia.gr.

The applications will be examined by an International Jury, comprising representatives of Europa Nostra and ELLINIKI ETAIRIA as well as representatives of major heritage and environmental organisations from Europe.

The presentation **Ceremony** of the Costa Carras European Citizens Awardwill take place at the **end of April 2023**, during the [Delphi Economic Forum 2023](https://def-viii.delphiforum.gr/) in the ancient city of Delphi, Greece.

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**More information**

**EUROPA NOSTRA**

[Europa Nostra](https://www.europanostra.org/) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe’s endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](http://7mostendangered.eu/about/). It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](http://www.europeanheritageawards.eu/). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](http://europeanheritagealliance.eu/).

Europa Nostra is among the official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is the Regional Co-Chair of the [Climate Heritage Network](https://climateheritage.org/) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

**ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage**

[ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment & Cultural Heritage](https://www.ellet.gr/en/) (ELLET) – a non-profit, non-governmental association – has been fighting since 1972 for the protection of the environment and our cultural heritage. ELLET's action covers 3 main axes: a) Conservation/restoration projects of cultural heritage and natural environment; b) Institutional interventions to safeguard our common heritage (documented studies and proposals to policy-makers: for coastal & forest protection, tourism planning, carrying capacity, environmental tax reform and adaptation to climate change. Appeals and interventions in the public administration and other bodies for topical issues of protection of the natural and built environment. c) Awareness raising and education on natural and human-made environment issues. Environmental education, with programs for all levels.

ELLET is the official representative in Greece of Europa Nostra and cooperates with the Council of Europe, the European Union, UNESCO, the European Environmental Bureau and other bodies.

ELLET has received the European Citizen Award 2012 (European Parliament) and the Athens Academy Awards in 2002 *"for 50 years of continuous and successful actions to protect our cultural heritage and the environment of Greece ".*

1. Attributed to citizens, group of citizens or organisations from one of the [Member States of the Council of Europe](https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/our-member-states) (47 countries). The Award will not be given posthumously. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)