

**Acceptance Speech of the Europa Nostra Medal of Honour, delivered by Louisa Leventis on 28 May 2026**

Your Excellency, Mr President, esteemed members of Europa Nostra, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege to accept this Medal of Honour on behalf of the A. G. Leventis Foundation. In doing so, I represent our Chairman, Tasso Leventis and all the Foundation's Trustees, whose leadership continues to guide and strengthen our work in cultural heritage. We are deeply grateful to Europa Nostra for this recognition and humbled by this tribute to a partnership that has endured for more than four decades.

Throughout these years, we have shared a conviction that cultural heritage is not only a legacy from the past, but also a powerful force for dialogue, understanding and cooperation across Europe and beyond.

This occasion is especially meaningful to me on a personal level. My late father, Deno Leventis, devoted many years of service to Europa Nostra as its Treasurer and was deeply committed to its mission. Together with my mother, Edmée, he forged enduring friendships within the Europa Nostra family and shared a profound belief in the importance of preserving our cultural heritage. My mother, who remains a steadfast supporter of these values, regrets that she cannot be with us today and joins me in expressing our heartfelt thanks for this distinction.

Over the decades, the Foundation has supported the preservation of archaeological sites, historic monuments, religious heritage and cultural institutions across Europe. We have sought to invest in heritage as a means of strengthening communities and fostering dialogue across borders. We are particularly proud that the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, which the Foundation has supported since its establishment, is recognised today with the Europa Nostra Award, a distinction that highlights the essential role of museums as guardians of memory and spaces of interaction and encounter.

Most recently, we are pleased to support the Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Nicosia, an initiative aimed at strengthening cultural exchange across the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East and building on Cyprus's historic role as a bridge between cultures.

On behalf of the Foundation, thank you for this honour. We look forward to continuing our shared mission of safeguarding and celebrating our common heritage.