

Brussels, 7 April 2020

**H.E. Nina Obuljen Koržinek**  
**Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia**  
Runjaninova 2  
CRO - 10 000 Zagreb

Dear Madam Minister,

Ahead of the video-conference of the EU Ministers of Culture on 8 April 2020, we address you in our capacity as Executive President and Secretary General of Europa Nostra, the European Voice of civil society committed to cultural heritage, in relation to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the cultural heritage world.

But first of all, allow us to express our deepest solidarity with the citizens of Croatia after the strong earthquake that hit Zagreb last month, which affected valuable heritage assets. Within our limits, Europa Nostra, together with our partner the European Investment Bank Institute, is ready to discuss with you possible forms of support in this time of need.

The global pandemic is taking a considerable toll on human lives and livelihoods, with devastating consequences on our society and economy. The present and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the heritage world are still unknown, yet - according to initial estimates - its effects will be dramatic (many jobs are at risk; security of heritage sites and contents is in danger; loss of public and private funds for heritage are expected, to name a few). For some initial observations, see enclosed annex.

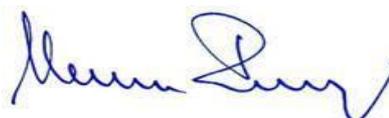
Europa Nostra - is committed to obtain a comprehensive overview of the situation. For this, we have launched a wide-reaching consultation among our members - over 350 organisations and 1000 individuals - and among European and International partners, including the 49 members of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3. We would be delighted to present the results of this consultation to you and through you, to the EU Council of Ministers in the weeks to come.

Ahead of tomorrow's video-conference, we call on the EU and its Member States for urgent support measures for Europe's heritage sector. We also encourage EU leaders to duly include cultural heritage in the EU's immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis and in the long-term recovery plans. Europa Nostra stands ready, as always, to be the EU's civil society partner in this urgent and ambitious endeavour.

Respectfully and cordially yours,



Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović  
Secretary General



Dr Hermann Parzinger  
Executive President

**Annex:** Initial observations of the COVID-19 Crisis on the heritage world, prepared by Europa Nostra on 26 March 2020.



**The Voice of**  
Cultural Heritage  
in Europe

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patrimoine culturel  
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