



THE DECLARATION OF DUBROVNIK

adopted by the EUROPA NOSTRA Congress “Enlargement = Enrichment”, 17-18 May 2002

Building a wider and stronger Union requires a greater awareness, by all its citizens, of their shared European culture. The European culture, common to all of us, predates and revitalises continuously the amazing cultural diversity which characterises our continent. It forms the foundation of the community of values and shapes the community of destiny which the enlarged European Union has to become for the 21st century. The strength and coherence of the European culture finds its finest expression in our common heritage which Europa Nostra is helping to preserve. It is an important element of the quality of life of European citizens. To preserve our heritage for future generations has, moreover, great economic and social significance.

Conscious of the urgency which the promotion of Europe's cultural dimension acquires in the enlargement process the yearly Europa Nostra Congress assembled in Dubrovnik (Croatia). It decided to launch an urgent appeal to the Institutions of the European Union, all European Governments and the Convention to give the promotion of our common culture and the preservation of our common heritage the central place it ought to have in building a Europe of the citizens for the 21st century.

Therefore, Europa Nostra

- 1) calls on the Convention to give, in preparing the guidelines for a Union of the 21st century, far greater weight to the importance of the cultural heritage than has hitherto been the case in the European Union;
- 2) urges that the Union should apply Article 151 of the Treaty establishing the European Community far more actively, both to contribute to the flowering of the cultures of its Member States and to bring the common cultural heritage to the fore;
- 3) urges to make full use of cultural actions envisaged in Article 151(3) which are not limited to Member States alone and, consequently, to co-operate, whenever possible, with the Council of Europe whose membership includes the whole area of European culture;
- 4) urges a fuller and more visible use of Article 151 (4) stipulating that the Union shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaty and, in this connection, draws particular attention to the areas of training, agriculture, tourism, transport, research, finance and the use of structural funds;
- 5) urges that the Union should contribute strongly to the principles and practice of environmental sustainability which is also an important precondition for preserving our cultural heritage;
- 6) urges that qualified majority voting should be introduced for decisions on cultural matters;
- 7) and finally invites the Union and its Member States to support the work of heritage NGO's and their co-operation in Europe as well as to encourage a mutually beneficial public/private partnership in this field according to the declaration of the fifth European Conference of Ministers responsible for the cultural heritage of April 2001 in Portorož (Slovenia).