



## NewcastleGateshead Declaration on 'Securing the future of Europe's engineering heritage'

**NewcastleGateshead, 13 June 2008** - Participants of the Europa Nostra Forum 'Securing the future of Europe's engineering heritage' state:

*Heritage is a broad concept encompassing both built and natural forms, from the ancient to the near contemporary.*

*Engineering provided the foundation of European prosperity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was of profound importance in bringing about the economic and social changes which created the societies we live in today.*

*Our engineering heritage bears witness to those changes and the creativity shown by our past engineering achievements remains an inspiration to this day.*

### **Our engineering heritage faces challenges and offers opportunities:**

- to find new uses for structures whose form and function are often highly inter-related. The re-use of such objects as cranes and wharfs for instance will need highly imaginative solutions;
- to adapt engineering structures and buildings to allow them to continue in their original functions or in new uses without loss of authenticity and integrity;
- to discover ways to interpret our inheritance based on a complex interplay of buildings, technologies, the organisation of work and the ways of life that these created, and using that interpretation to appeal a wide cross-section of the public;
- to use this rich heritage of innovation and entrepreneurship to stimulate science-based learning, skills development and innovation today.

**The way forward to secure this heritage is through the ‘heritage cycle’ of understanding, valuing, caring and enjoying:**

- by understanding the historic environment people value it;
- by valuing it they will want to care for it;
- by caring for it they will help people enjoy it;
- from enjoying the historic environment comes a thirst to understand it.

**The Europa Nostra Congress held in NewcastleGateshead:**

- concluded that there is a pan-European need to secure the future of our engineering heritage.

**Europa Nostra calls upon those who have our engineering heritage in their care and provide the resources to look after it, those who provide the legal framework for its preservation and adaptation and those responsible for developing skills and education:**

- to apply the same rules, standards and funding structures to the protection and enhancement of engineering heritage as are applied to all other heritage;
- to learn from approaches already taken to the study and understanding of our engineering heritage and from the exemplary preservation of industrial World Heritage Sites;
- to realise that it will be increasingly important to analyse and promote the intrinsic values of our engineering heritage and to determine and disseminate the instrumental, economic, social and educational benefits of securing Europe's engineering heritage;
- to take opportunities to protect and preserve key engineering heritage sites and machinery and to adapt and appropriately reuse engineering related buildings, to record sites, buildings, machinery and processes and to investigate the archaeological potential of past industrial sites and features;
- to harness the potential for learning, for enjoyment and for inspiration so that, by securing the future of Europe's Engineering heritage, the life of the people of Europe, in this and coming generations is positively enhanced.