

The Hague, 31 July 2019

Greeting message of Europa Nostra at the opening event of the European exhibition "Roerich Pact - Peace through culture", Academic Library of the University of Latvia, 2 August 2019

Europa Nostra is the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and natural heritage in more than 40 countries across Europe. We are proud to count among our 350 member organisations the International Centre of the Roerichs, whose important mission is the preservation, study and popularization of the Roerichs' heritage.

We were particularly pleased to receive support of the Austrian Roerich Society-National Committee of the Roerich Pact and the the Latvian branch of the International Centre of the Roerichs for the translation of the "Berlin Call to Action – Cultural Heritage for the Future of Europe" into Russian and Latvian – among 28 other languages. The Berlin Call builds on the momentum created by the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and seeks to engage as many organisations, institutions, governments, civil society actors and individuals in recognising the positive and cohesive power of Europe's shared cultural heritage.

At the end of 2018, the symbolic number of 2018 signatures by individuals and organisations was already reached. As a result, the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage published by the European Commission, aiming at sustaining the legacy of the Year through 60 concrete actions, also prominently refers to the Berlin Call to Action as key example of stakeholder mobilisation.

Cultural heritage is vital for our economy, our society, our culture, our environment, our well-being and for the future of Europe. Cultural heritage also ensures a bridge between our past and our future. It allows us to draw from, and build on our cultural traditions and history, while it also helps us to heal wounds and mend the fractures of the past. It is time to recognize and unfold the positive and cohesive power of our shared cultural heritage and values to connect Europe's citizens and communities and give a deeper meaning to the entire European project.

Therefore, we applaud the European exhibition "Roerich Pact - Peace through culture", initiated by the Latvian branch of the International Centre of the Roerichs and the Academic Library of the University of Latvia, which promotes mutual understanding, tolerance and cultural cooperation.

As Europeans – people who have lived here for generations as well as people who have newly arrived – we have to take full responsibility for transmitting this heritage in good shape to future generations. And for this we must put our shared cultural heritage where it belongs: at the very centre of Europe's policies and priorities.

We wish you every success with this important exhibition and hope to welcome many of you as members of our European family!

Europa Nostra



**The Voice of
Cultural Heritage
in Europe**

**La Voix du
patrimoine culturel
en Europe**

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