

PRESS RELEASE

Putting Europe's shared heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal

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Tackling climate change is this generation's defining task and Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage can help. To help lead the way, heritage, climate and financial organisations and experts today launched the **European Cultural Heritage Green Paper "Putting Europe's shared heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal"** (read [Executive Summary](#) and [Full Paper](#)).

The European Cultural Heritage Green Paper is produced by [Europa Nostra](#) in close cooperation with [ICOMOS](#) and the [Climate Heritage Network](#), with the input of other members of the [European Heritage Alliance](#). It is supported by the [European Investment Bank Institute](#) and the [Creative Europe](#) programme of the European Union.

Speaking at the online launch event attended by over 550 people, **Hermann Parzinger**, Executive President of Europa Nostra stated: "*This ground-breaking document demonstrates the relevance of cultural heritage for achieving the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal, launched by the European Commission to make Europe the first carbon-free continent by 2050. The European Green Deal states that 'All EU actions and policies will have to contribute to the European Green Deal objectives'. Our European Cultural Heritage Green Paper gives the response: **Count Cultural Heritage in!***"

The document was presented by its Lead Author, **Andrew Potts**, Coordinator of the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group. He stressed that "*The European Cultural Heritage Green Paper aims to integrate cultural heritage into climate action and inspire the mobilisation of the heritage community for transformative climate action. Holding global warming to below 1.5C is our best chance at sparing the planet, its people and their cultures from the worst impacts of climate change. The European Green Deal helps put the world on that path. The future of Europe's cultural heritage depends on its success. At the same time, Europe's shared values and common heritage offer undeniable potential to help accomplish the Green Deal's mission. This is why cultural heritage is essential to the success of the European Green Deal*".

The Paper correlates the contribution of cultural heritage to all key areas of the [European Green Deal](#), including Clean Energy, Circular Economy, the Renovation Wave, Smart Mobility, Farm to Fork, Green Finance and a Just Transition, Research and Innovation, Education and Training, as well as Green Deal Diplomacy. It **proposes a series of concrete recommendations** both for policy-makers and for cultural heritage stakeholders. **Potential conflicts**, real or perceived, between heritage safeguarding and European Green Deal action are also identified, as well as **win-win strategies** for overcoming these conflicts.

As a follow-up, Europa Nostra plans to launch a **European multi-stakeholder platform on heritage and climate action** in order to build on and deepen the collective knowledge developed with this Paper and in order to engage all parties concerned into ensuring adequate implementation of the proposed recommendations. The European Investment Bank Institute has also announced the introduction of a **new strand** of its future activities dedicated to the topic "**Cultural Heritage and Climate Action**".

The Paper was supported by the European Investment Bank Institute, a partner of Europa Nostra since 2013 notably with the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). “We decided to support the European Cultural Heritage Green Paper because we believe cultural heritage has the potential to provide the missing link between all Europeans and the European Green Deal,” noted **Francisco de Paula Coelho**, Dean of the Institute.

In a video message recorded especially for the Green Paper launch event, **Ambroise Fayolle**, Vice-President of the EIB responsible for Climate Action, emphasised: “As Hermann Parzinger says: ‘whether we like it or not we are all intrinsically connected to our past’. In the same way, we are all intrinsically connected to the future of our planet. To safeguard our past, we need to safeguard our future as well. The EIB is supporting the European Cultural Heritage Green Paper because we believe cultural heritage has the potential to provide the missing link between all Europeans and the EU Green Deal and constitutes the basis of our common and greener future.”

This policy and advocacy document will also be highly **relevant for other policy priorities of the European Union**, such as the recently launched [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative of the European Commission, of which Europa Nostra is an official partner.

Reacting to the presentation of the document, **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated: “The greening of Europe’s cultural heritage is an absolute necessity and provides an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make it more resilient and relevant. Let’s read, reflect and look at the European Cultural Heritage Green Paper in this light, to find common solutions and areas for cooperation. I stress once again our commitment to promoting and protecting Europe’s rich heritage in all its forms – tangible, intangible, cultural and natural. Together with the Member States and the sector’s stakeholders, we can continue to safeguard and develop this precious resource for future generations to come.”

The European Cultural Heritage Green Paper is the result of a fruitful cooperation between two of the oldest and largest heritage organisations in the world: Europa Nostra and ICOMOS. The recently elected new President of ICOMOS, **Teresa Patricio**, stressed: “Europe’s rich cultural heritage can support implementation of every element of the European Green Deal. Culture-based strategies can help heighten the ambition and capacity of communities to act, support climate adaptation and resilience, contribute to mitigation interventions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and address loss and damage from climate impacts. Cultural heritage is particularly central to Green Deal strategies focused on Europe’s urban and rural landscapes such as the renovation wave and the New European Bauhaus.”

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Background information

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. A pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, it covers more than 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#), run in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute. It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

European Investment Bank Institute

The [European Investment Bank Institute](#) (EIB-I) was set up within the EIB Group (European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund) to promote and support social, cultural, and academic initiatives with European stakeholders and the public at large. It is a key pillar of the EIB Group's community and citizenship engagement. More information on <http://institute.eib.org>

ICOMOS

The International Council on Monuments and Sites ([ICOMOS](#)) is a unique non-governmental, not-for-profit international organisation committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. Present in 151 countries and active all over Europe, it is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and dissemination of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance. It has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. Its National and International Scientific Committees and Working Groups incorporate unequalled expertise. As an official advisory body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS has a history in addressing the issues of climate change, sustainable development and climate neutrality, and is currently acting as the Secretariat of the Climate Heritage Network.

Climate Heritage Network

The [Climate Heritage Network](#) connects organisations around the world that share a common commitment to strengthening the use of arts, culture and heritage to help communities tackle climate change and achieve the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. Entities may join at <http://climateheritage.org/join>

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to jobs and growth. With a budget of €1.64 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.