



NOMINATION FORM

Deadline for nomination: **15 March 2013**

This form should be filled out **in English** and sent in digital form by e-mail to the attention of

Elena Bianchi: eb@europanostra.org

Nominator¹

Name: **Dr Costas Stamatopoulos**

Function: **Vice President of Elliniki Etairia**

Organisation: **Elliniki Etairia - Europa Nostra Representation in Greece**

Address: **Tripodon 28, Athens 105 58, Greece**

Telephone: **0030 210 3225245**

Fax: **0030 210 3225240**

E-mail: **europanostra@ellinikietairia.gr**

Website: **www.ellet.gr**



¹ Entries may be submitted by:

- a Europa Nostra member or associate organisation or
- a Europa Nostra country representation or
- an established public or private body active in the heritage field - only for those countries where Europa Nostra does not yet have a member/associate organisation or a country representation. For the full list please check: www.europanostra.org/membership/

Name and complete address of the Nominated Site

Name: **Former Royal Estate of Tatoï**

Address: **Tatoï, Municipality of Dionyssos, Prefecture of Attika, Greece**

Type

- ☒ Historic buildings and their ensembles, with their surrounding townscapes or landscapes.
- ☐ Places of Worship
- ☒ Archaeological sites, with their surrounding landscapes
- ☒ Industrial buildings and areas
- ☒ Parks, gardens and cultural landscapes
- ☒ Heritage sites of historical importance (« Lieux de mémoire »)
- ☒ Movable heritage
- ☐ Other (please specify)

GPS co-ordinates of the Nominated Site

Latitude: 38° 9'46.44"N / Longitude: 23°47'38.05"E

(Source Google Earth)

Brief description of the Nominated Site and its significance in the European context (max. 150 words)

Located a mere 25 kilometres from the centre of Athens is the *Former Royal Estate of Tatoï*, an estate that combines history, nature and architecture. It was the creation *par excellence* of King George I (1845–1913), who left behind an indelible mark on Tatoï. He transformed the wild, uncultivated expanses of the western foothills of Parnitha into a unique terrain on which he achieved in creating a rare balance between human intervention and the natural environment. With Tatoï, George established a window to the West for Greeks and a window to Greece for foreigners. In his time there was not a single important visitor to Athens who did not ascend the road to Tatoï – not taking into account the crowned relatives of the Greek kings, who were closely connected by blood and by bonds of friendship and love, with the royal and imperial families of Great Britain, Russia, Denmark and Germany. From time to time, on the occasion of a royal family anniversary, Tatoï became the venue of a gathering of European royalty of the most powerful countries of the period – most certainly disproportionate to the small and then somewhat marginal Athens and Greece – a kind of informal summit of leaders. The estate at present is at a high risk due to both human and natural factors, particularly in the current Greek economic crisis, when the temptation to sell and to meet immediate needs, irrespective of long-term value and historical texture, is at its highest point ever.

Owner

☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Other (please specify)

Has the owner endorsed this nomination? ☐ yes ☒ no, because of the lack of a clear legislation as to which one amongst the "Administrators" of the Site, is considered to be the "Owner", in terms of property rights.

Administrators of the Site:

1. Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports

Address: 20-22 Bouboulinas Str.,

Athens, 106 82, Greece.

Telephone: 0030 213 1322100

Fax: 0030 210 8201138

Web: www.culture.gr

2. Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Address: 17 Amaliados Str.,

Athens, 115 23, Greece

Telephone: 0030 213 1515 000

Fax: 0030 210 6447 608

Web: www.ypeka.gr

3. Ministry for Rural Development and Food

Address: 381 Acharnon Str.,

Athens 11 43, Greece

Telephone: 0030 210 212 4000

Web: www.minagric.gr

Administrative and legal responsibility for the Nominated Site, if other than the owner

According to the Law 2215/1994, article 4, paragraph 3, "*On the regulation of the property of the deposed royal family of Greece*", the administration of the Former Royal Estate of Tatoi (along with other former royal estates) is assigned to three Ministries of the Hellenic Government:

- **The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports.** More specifically, the *Ephorate of Contemporary Culture of the Prefecture of Attica (ENMA)*, is responsible for the historic zone and the built heritage of the estate. ENMA is the government body responsible for the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of all 40 existing edifices of the estate. Any restoration project falls under its exclusive jurisdiction.

- **The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.** The *Organisation for the Regulatory Plan of Athens (ORSA)* is a Government agency, that falls under the jurisdiction of this Ministry, which has been working on the development of a Management Plan for the proper enhancement of the estate.

- **The Ministry for Rural Development and Food,** is responsible for all areas of the estate on which agricultural activities have been performed, i.e. olive trees, vineyards, etc.

With the Presidential Decrees of 19.7/24.7.2007 (Δ336) and 40707/2008 (Δ 619) "*On the establishment of a buffer zone of the National Park of Parnitha*" the administration of the forested area of the estate is assigned to the *Administration Authority of the National Park of Parnitha*². Moreover, the Ministry of Finance has recently issued a

² The *Administrative Authority of the National Park of Parnitha* is a Not-for-Profit Legal Entity governed by rights, protections, privileges, responsibilities, and liabilities under law, similar to those of a natural person. It was formed upon the initiative of the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change on 27.08.2002 (Law. 3044, Government Gazette, 197/A), aiming to protect and preserve the biodiversity and the natural resources of the protected area.

law (Government Gazette ΦΕΚ 425, ΥΟΔΔ 10.9.2013, ΑΔΑ Β4Θ1Η - ΒΣΛ), amending the relevant law of 1994 in order to include more members of the board, of the administration committee for the estate.

The issue of "ownership" of the estate, in terms of real estate property rights, still remains un-clarified. It is not possible to identify a single government agency, responsible for the administration and legal representation of the estate. Numerous government bodies are named as being responsible for different sectors of the estate; but none for the estate as an entity. This constitutes a major hindrance in the preservation and enhancement of Tatoï.

Recently, a further development has raised serious concerns. Due to the unprecedented financial hardship that our country has been facing, a new government agency has been established; that of the *Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund* (TAIPED), governed by the Ministry of Finance. This Fund aims to 'exploit' -usually by sale- property that belongs to the Hellenic State, and which has not yet been developed in a financially viable way. The Former Royal Estate of Tatoï lies, apparently, high up on the list of the Fund. The danger of allowing uses to be developed on the estate that are totally inappropriate or irrelevant to its historic significance is imminent, and constitutes a threat much greater than all others combined.

A. Detailed description of the Nominated Site(max. 1000 words)

Please also include historical background with dates, value and significance

Located a mere 25 kilometres from the centre of Athens is Tatoï, an estate that combines history, nature and architecture. History – chiefly because this was once the private residence of the Greek royal family. Nature – in that it comprises 41,000 sq.m. [41 km²] of forest, orchards and farmland. Architecture – owing to the approximately forty edifices, of small or relatively small dimensions, of which many were the work of discerning architects.

The prehistory of the property is lost in the mists of time Tatoï occupies the area of ancient Dekeleia. From that distant past there survive a number of archaeological finds, the majority of which are preserved in the National Archaeological Museum: they include the base of a beacon at the Katsimidi Peak and significant traces of an improvised circular fortification, raised by the Lacedaemonians in 413 BC during the Peloponnesian War for the purpose of controlling the overland approaches to the plain of Athens and, in so doing, blockading the city by land. The fortified acropolis of Dekeleia is where today's royal cemetery is located. It is for this reason that the hill, on which lie not only the ancient walls but also the church, the mausoleum and the remaining tombs of the royal dynasty, is known as *Palaiokastro* ('Old Citadel'). The next surviving building – in chronological order – is the *Palaiopyrgos* ('Old Tower') dated to around 1600. The chapels, together with the scattered traces of dwellings whose ruins are identified in 19th-century maps, were discovered in stages by virtue of the successive outbursts of fires during the 20th century. Immediately after Greece's independence, the various Ottoman properties, scattered over the expanse of today's domain, were eventually concentrated in the ownership of the Soutsos family from whom they were purchased on 15 May 1872, by George I (1845–1913) King of Greece from 1864.

Dynamic and forward-looking in a multitude of spheres, George I left behind an indelible mark on Tatoï, which was his creation *par excellence*. From the outset he rejected the recommendations of the over ambitious architects of his day with their proposals for pompous country palaces. Instead he insisted on a principle which was upheld unswervingly by all of his heirs, namely, that at Tatoï nature took precedence and that the various buildings should therefore hidden in vegetation rather than dominate the area. With the assistance of two successive estate managers, both dedicated to their work, whom the king himself chose: the Dane Ludwig Münter (1872–1892) and Otto Weismann (1893–1914); George I transformed the wild, uncultivated expanses of the western foothills of Parnitha into a unique terrain on which he achieved in creating a rare balance between human intervention –

widely spread yet prudently discreet – and the natural environment. He also succeeded in matching the aesthetic of a royal recreational abode (with a forest, a park and gardens that encircled the royal mansion) with the promotion of cattle breeding, a variety of farm produce, and the production of high quality wine. At the same time by achieving the economic self-sufficiency of his estate, he provided the means by which its preservation would not burden either the state or his family budget, either directly or indirectly.

In many ways, Tatoï constituted something quite unique and as such it was imitated by other large land owners in Greece, but was never equalled. At the same time the largest part of the estate was kept open to the wider public. Between 1885 and 1935 a small hotel was in operation; it was located in one of the most elegant of the buildings on the property. With Tatoï, George also established a window to the West for Greeks and a window to Greece for foreigners. In his time there was not a single important visitor to Athens who did not ascend the road to Tatoï – not taking into account the crowned relatives of the Greek kings, who were closely connected by blood and by bonds of friendship and love with the royal and imperial families of Great Britain, Russia, Denmark and Germany. From time to time, on the occasion of a royal family anniversary, Tatoï became the venue of a gathering of European royalty – most certainly disproportionate to the small and somewhat then marginal Athens and Greece – a kind of informal summit of leaders. Reactions appeared in the form of descriptions and lively commentaries in many journals and travel brochures with impressions of guests of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The uniqueness of Tatoï embraced a blend of high cosmopolitan standards, refinement and simplicity.

The suffering experienced by the residence has been long drawn out. Most noticeable was the total abandonment of horses, cattle and sheep in the stables of the domain after the suppression of the monarchy by the military regime in 1973. In addition a great number of deer were massacred during the period of the Junta, whose adherents organised hunts in the deserted royal lands. In spite of its trials, however, its past, which is complex and unique in the Greek context, is what determines both today and for the future the main directions of Tatoï's existence and function.

B. State of conservation of the Nominated Site, including current use(max. 1000 words)

Please also specify whether the Nominated Site is currently under human habitation.

Of all the, more than 40, remaining buildings of the site the only one still in use is the Police Station.

1. Buildings that have already been restored by the State:

- Stables (circa 1875).
- Palace kitchen (1937-1939).
- Guardhouse of the internal gate (circa 1885-1889).
- Building of the Adjutant (1892 + 1937). Architects: Savvas Boukis and Anastasios Metaxas.
- Building of the Officers of the Palace Guards (circa 1890).

2. Buildings for which restoration is planned by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports:

- Three completely ruined small buildings near the gate of Lefka, including the residence of the headgardener (circa 1875).

3. Buildings not directly facing an imminent threat:

- Royal Residence (*) (1884-1886). Architect: Savvas Boukis (³).
- Building of the Director (**) (1938-1939). Architect: Periklis Sakellarios.
- Building of the Staff (***) (1913-1914).
- Hotel (circa 1885) (****) Architect: Savvas Boukis.
- New Barn (1950-1952). Architect: Constantine Ginis.
- Pig sty (1948).
- Communications Building (circa 1880) (*****)
- Greenhouse of Queen Frederiki (circa 1954).
- the "Mandra" complex (1930), (= 2 houses and several laboratories around a courtyard enclosure)
- Building for the pasteurisation of milk (Galatadika) (1950).
- Gendarmerie Station (1930). This is the only building of the Estate which is currently being used (still as a Police Station).
- two small houses for the workers and a warehouse (circa 1900).
- The Church, dedicated to the Resurrection of Christ (1899) (*****) Architect: Anastasios Metaxas.
- The mausoleum (1936-1940). Architect: *Manolis Lazarides*.

(*) The building was severely deformed through attempts to modernize it in 1937-1939. Also, following the lootings that occurred during the Civil War (Dec.1944-January 1945), it was poorly restored evidently, to reduce expenses.

(**) The building was severely damaged in the earthquake of 1999, after which it was partially abandoned. Its condition can be described as moderate.

(***) A new roof is currently being installed by the Ministry of Culture, having been left unroofed for more than ten years. It does not seem to present a problem from the structural point of view.

(****) A new roof was placed before further destruction occurred. This is arguably the finest building of the estate.

(*****) The main building itself does not present any major problems. The south and east wing gallery however, as well as, the roof of the small kitchenette, have largely collapsed.

(*****) The frescoes of the Church are currently under restoration.

Furthermore, outside the historic core of the estate, at the location "Bafi", we encounter:

- The Gendarmerie Station.
- The sheep pen.
- The Military camp complex.

4. Buildings in a critical condition, because of the collapse or subsidence of their roof:

- Sturm house (*) Architect: Ernst Ziller (;
- Forestry Department (circa 1915) (**)
- Building for the production of butter / Creamery (1898) (***)
- Building for the accommodation of seasonal workers (circa 1930)
- House of the caretaker (circa 1885).
- Building for the bottling of wine
- The east wing of the staff accommodation building (circa 1875) (*).
- half of the Olive Press building.
- Sheep pen (a seasonal building used merely in the summer).
- The Garage for the farm truck.
- Military Barracks (1914-)

³ The Royal Residence is an identical replica of the villa *Ferme* (1828-1829) of the Peterhof Royal estate in St. Petersburg, built by the architect *Adam Menelas*.

(*) For a long time a residence of the German forestry expert Sturm and formerly, of the French winegrower Cornillon. It was built in 1872 as an annex to first Royal residence. Having remained un-roofed for over a decade, it was covered in January 2013. Due to the long-term neglect, internal disintegration is all too evident. Ceilings and floors are destroyed, whereas the stonework has cracked. A small percentage of painted decoration is preserved.

(**) A falling tree caused severe damage to the roof of the southwest corner of the building during the fall months of 2012. The damage that occurred was not even temporarily repaired, resulting in severe damage of the interior.

(***) Original tiling is still preserved.

5. Buildings in an advanced degree of disrepair:

- Winery (1880/1920) (*)
- Guardhouse of the outer gate (1939). Architect: Periklis Sakellarios
- The west wing of the Staff building (circa 1880).
- The Garage, consisting of 3 buildings (circa 1937-1939).
- The Guardhouse of the royal cemetery (circa 1937).
- The three small buildings of the above-mentioned category 2.

(*) This is one of the oldest wineries of Greece. Its wooden structure is intact. Its condition however, is critical, as the building has remained unroofed for, at least, the past 5 years. It has been thoroughly recorded by architect Iasonas Kavallinis, in 1999-2001.

6. Buildings or structures which have collapsed, during the past 20 years, due to natural disasters, neglect or looting:

- The "Lygda's Inn" (in the Royal Forest) (circa 1880).
- The Guardhouse of the Gendarmerie in the "Kithara lake" area (circa 1937).
- The Barybobi Gate (1939) (*). Architect: Periklis Sakellarios.
- half of the building of the Olive Press
- The cottage of Prince Paul (later King Paul), in the beginning of the road towards the lake of Kithara (circa 1908).

(*) This is the official entrance to the estate from which only members of the royal family were allowed to enter. It gradually lost its marble decoration during the years 1975-1985 until it, almost, disappeared.

7. Buildings of which we know the exact location, size and shape, but which were destroyed in the fire of 1916:

- The first royal residence / the palace of King Constantine (1872-1874). Architect: Ernst Ziller.
- The church of the palace, dedicated to Prophet Elias (1873).
- The tower on the "Roi Hill" (circa 1875) (*).

(*) This refers to an old windmill to which a further floor was added, and into which George I had installed an exhibition of archaeological findings of Dekelia, as well as, a museum of the fauna of Parnitha. The only surviving part is the outline of the base, which was discovered in 1958 during an informal excavation, by the Princesses Sophia (now queen of Spain) and Irene.

8. Remnants of antiquity (*) – buildings of Byzantine and early Ottoman period:

- At several points on the perimeter of the "Paleokastro" (old citadel), where the royal cemetery is located, there are remnants of the fortification of the Lacedaemonians, dating to the year 413 BC.
- The base of the 4th century BC beacon tower, located at the top of the "Katsimidi" peak. This is part of the fortifications of the northernmost Athenian territory in Attica, opposite to the, sometimes, hostile territory of Thebes.
- The "Palaiopyrgos" (stone tower) of the 16th century, significantly preserved, on the western slope of the "Kiafa - Thermi" Hill.

(*) Systematic excavations, have never taken place in the Tatoi / Dekeleia area.

Finally, this list is completed with the addition of:

- the "Great Bridge" (1876) at the location "Fourni", over which the main road of the estate is crossing,
- the conservation of the tombs of the royal Dynasty and the Mausoleum,
- the restoration of the "open porch with the pergola", connecting the old palace to the church of Prophet Elias.

C. Threat(s) to the Nominated Site and of any damage that has already occurred

(max. 1000 words)

Please also specify what is the likely deterioration path if corrective measures are not taken.

1. The ongoing interaction of several different government bodies in the administration of Tatoi, constitutes the most significant threat to the protection of the monuments and the surrounding area.
2. The threat of an extensive fire, due to the large concentration of biomass within the historic nucleus of the estate, remains a major danger. Apart from an unsystematically installed fire-proofing system, and some occasional cleansings, few interventions have taken place for the preservation of the forest.
3. The estate has suffered major destructions due to earthquakes, especially of the major one in 1999, the epicentre of which was located close to Tatoi. Due to the inadequate structural stability and maintenance of the buildings, a possible future earthquake will cause further damage.
4. Instances of vandalism of the different buildings, which was a substantial problem during the years following 1974, still occurs, even if less intensively after the listing of Tatoi as a monument, following a formal application and action by Elliniki Etairia, in the period 2001-2003.
5. The inadequate historical research and documentation conducted by the conservators working on the site, is acceptable only for rescue interventions, even though publications, such as the two-volume work on the historical and natural environment of Tatoi by Dr Stamatopoulos, published in 2004, and the complete recorded drawings, compiled by architect Iasonas Kavallinis and funded by Elliniki Etairia in 1999, have been available for a significant amount of time.
6. Moreover, the economic recession that our country is currently facing, constitutes a substantial threat. The funds available to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, either from government or private sources, have been greatly reduced. Even though the estate has been expropriated, with compensation defined by the European Court of Human Rights, the greatest apparent danger facing the site at present is the pressure on the Hellenic State to sell whatever is possible, even at a low price, for any kind of development, even the most which is questionable, in order to raise funds.

D. Specific value of the Nominated Site for the affected community/communities

(max. 500 words)

Please also specify if the Nominated Site, as it currently stands, is of special environmental/ biodiversity importance.

Local communities of the region

Tatoi in its current state, at risk and uninterpreted for the visitor, is of low value to its surrounding communities. Indeed the latter contribute to the existing risks. A carefully developed management plan could enhance the various values that relate: first, to the economic microclimate of the area, with the development of agricultural activities that would profit from proximity to the city of Athens, and second to educational activities related to local and national history. This is of vital importance since the participation of the local communities in the life of Tatoi will ensure its economic sustainability.

Residents of Athens

Tatoi, a precious open space of green, and a climate regulator for Athens, is located in close proximity to the capital. It could thus be developed as a major destination for recreation; a metropolitan park just outside the metropolis.

Even in its current state, Tatoi receives about 2.000 visitors per day, especially during the weekends. This number could be significantly raised if the facilities and services available to visitors are improved.

National Economy

Tatoi currently does not contribute to the Greek national economy. On the contrary it represents a minor direct burden on resources and a major missed opportunity, especially compared with relevant British royal palaces, no longer used by the British royal family, which produce a surplus. Such a result can certainly be achieved within a few years in Tatoi.

Education

Tatoi illuminates various aspects of the recent history of Greece, a somewhat neglected area within the school curriculum. Its significant architectural remnants could become the focus of educational activities illuminating the economic study of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

Visitors

Visitors to Tatoi, would flock to a unique combination of historical and natural landscape. An extensive and informative network of pathways can be developed in order to facilitate their visit.

Non Government Organisations

In the last years, a network of interested NGOs have been active in the area, offering different activities, such as: guided tours, hiking, cycling, cleaning of the forest, etc.

Researchers

Original scientific research might include, agricultural organisation in peri-urban environments, industrial heritage and the use of prototype machines in food production and processing, forest and garden management in 19th and early 20th centuries, the royal history of Greece, environmental issues (conservation, restoration, biodiversity, etc).

Natural assets

The Tatoi region contains exceptional biodiversity, hosting endemic and alien species of flora and rare and threatened species of fauna. Being part of the Parnitha mountain region, Tatoi is included in the Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas in the territory of the European Union (GR 3000001) and as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for Birds. Moreover, Parnitha mountain is included in the IBA list, as an Important Bird Area in Europe. These have been ratified by the Greek State declaring Tatoi a 'Special Conservation Zone' for the protection of biodiversity (2011). These declarations complement national framework decisions demarcating the area as a 'National Forest' (1961), a Landscape of Special Natural Beauty, and a Wild Life Refuge (1977, 1988, 2007). Zoning regulations, delimiting uses, were issued in 1968, 1969, 1985, 2007 and 2008.

E. Actions planned or already being undertaken to save the Nominated Site in question

(max. 500 words)

From the side of the State

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports has, in the past 10 years that Tatoi has been under its administrative jurisdiction, executed rescue operations on certain buildings of the estate. These operations were the responsibility of the Ephorate of Contemporary Culture of Attica. All of these were approved by the Central Council for Contemporary Culture. More specifically:

1. With funding secured from the *3rd European Community Support Framework*, a partial restoration of the buildings for the Adjutant, the Kitchen and the Stables was conducted.
2. With funding secured from the *National Investment Programme*, restoration work was conducted on the following buildings: the Guardhouse of the Outer Gate, the Staff Building, the Sturm house, the building of the Director, the building for the workers A', the Building for the Officers of the Guards, the Estate Laboratory and the New Barn.
3. The Ephorate for Contemporary Culture of Attica, has completed restoration studies for three buildings, which include the house for the chief gardener. These will be included in the *National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)*, with a budget of 2.000.000 euro.
4. The Directorate for Conservation of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, has included in the *National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)* the project for the restoration of all the movable objects contained at the Palace, the Kitchen and the Stables. This project, currently in the completion phase, and funded by the *NSRF* with a budget of 1.194.000 euro, also includes the restoration of the painted surfaces of the Church of the Resurrection.
5. With funding from the *National Investment Programme*, the Ephorate for Contemporary Culture of Attica has developed the irrigation and the fire-protection system of the estate,.
6. The Administrative Authority of the Parnitha National Forest, in collaboration with the Parnitha Forestry Department, has removed the mature trees that were constituting a danger to the safety of the historical buildings.
7. The Organisation for the Regulatory Plan of Athens, with funding provided by the Administrative Authority of the Parnitha National Forest, has developed a Management Plan for the enhancement of Tatoi.

From the side of the **Civic Society**, the following actions have been taken:

8. Dr Costas Stamatopoulos, former Secretary General of Elliniki Etairia, former President of its Council for the Architectural Heritage and, at present its Vice-President, has compiled a two-volume work publication named "*The Chronicle of Tatoi*" (Kapon Editions, 2004), and a summary "*Tatoi: perambulation in Space and Time*" (Kapon Editions, 2011). These editions constitute the only published works referring to the history, architecture and nature of Tatoi.

9. On the initiative of Elliniki Etairia, a scientific committee was formed in 2001 under the supervision of Dr Stamatopoulos. The sole purpose of the committee was to put together an application with documentation on all the buildings of the Tatoi Estate (with the exception of the royal residence), which was then submitted to the Ministry of Culture, requesting the listing of the historical building complex. The application was submitted in 2001 but the decision for the listing of Tatoi was taken in September 2003 by the Central Council for Contemporary Culture. In the same year Tatoi became property of the Hellenic State.

10. Following the listing of Tatoi as a monument, Elliniki Etairia, in 2004, started the process of developing a management plan for the enhancement of Tatoi. This was completed in 2005, when it was presented to the public, during a Press Conference at the offices of Elliniki Etairia. This was the first time that such a plan was developed.

11. Recently, in 2012-2013, Elliniki Etairia coordinated the development of a survey for the enhancement of the historical route to the lake Kithara, at Tatoi. The survey has already been approved, and the project is planned to be included in the *National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)*, through a programme of the Hellenic Tourism Organisation.

12. Even more recently, civic society has been energised by the dynamic interventions of the Friends of Tatoi Society. This Society has been mobilising the public interest through articles published in the Greek media, organising public events as well as guided tours around the estate. In the near future it is planning to conduct restoration surveys of the historical buildings of Tatoi and hand them over to the Ministry for implementation.

F. Potential solutions that would eliminate or reduce the threats in the short or long term (max. 500 words)

Short term

A number of immediate actions could be prescribed in order to reduce specific risks threatening the Tatoi estate. Completion of the fire protection system, stabilisation of all the buildings and edifices, improvement of the infrastructure and the visitors' facilities (roads, toilets, running water supply, etc.), are among actions necessary to be taken for the elimination of risks such as fire and further loss of historical fabric, while catering for visitors in the short term. Significant funding is needed for these actions. Moreover, a well-organised visitors' study should be conducted, with focus groups and maximal participation of all potential stakeholders, focusing on public reaction to the solutions proposed (recreational and productive) and their economic viability.

Long term

The Tatoi estate should be managed by one autonomous organisation, which should fundraise, organise adequate surveys for the protection and restoration of the cultural and natural environment, examine partnership schemes with private firms and effectively define the zones both for productive activities (to cater for the financial sustainability of Tatoi and to educate in model agricultural practices), and for recreational activities (cultural tourism). It is evident that such an autonomous organisation should contain representatives both of certain state agencies and of NGOs already actively involved in the protection of the site. The main challenge is precisely the elaboration of the overall management structure since all the technical problems are eminently soluble.

G. Partners in the Campaign

(max. 500 words)

Include information about any additional partners (public or private) involved in any existing, past or ongoing campaign to save the Nominated Site, both financial and otherwise.

Please include contact details.

Tatoi Friends Association,
Mr Vassilios Koutsavlis, President,
P.O. Box 67654,
Athens 151 03 (Pefki).
Tel. + 30 6975 947248.
e-mail: info@tatoi.org

J. Future potential of the Nominated Site in the economic / social / educational field, in particular at the regional and local level

(max. 500 words)

Greece, a country whose main industry is tourism in combination with rich agricultural and livestock production, could not find a more appropriate area to project and express its competitive advantage, than Tatoi. Here history interacts harmoniously with nature. It is a place where Greek traditions and folklore can find an ideal way to be expressed and further studied. With the enhancement of the Former Royal Estate of Tatoi, the opportunity would be given to a large number of Greek and foreign visitors to come into contact with the historical significance of Tatoi and to be educated through a multifaceted collection of activities offered, such as: the development of the cultural, folk, environmental wealth of the estate, the contact and affiliation with the concept of agro-tourism, organic farming and sustainable development.

Tatoi can become a fully self-funded organisation, with significant development benefits. The contact of schools and young people with a unique, for Greece, farm that offers a hands-on experience in farming and husbandry, may result in the development of a new generation of scientists and practitioners at the level of cultural and environmental administration but also of a holistic approach towards the country's competitive advantages of our country.

Should Tatoi be enhanced, protected and interpreted, Greek and foreign visitors alike will be able to come into contact with the recent history of our country, and have a first-hand experience of the historical presence of the Greek royal dynasty, in the political and social reality of Greece, as well as, its relations with the outside world. Tatoi constitutes a point of reference for Greece and a link with almost all the royal families of Europe. For researchers, as well as the targeted groups of visitors that visit relevant destinations every year, Tatoi may become another topic for study, and a destination able to assist in the formation of a more complete and wider perspective of European history.

K. List of captions and credits of the fifteen submitted digital images
(subject, description, name of the photographer)



Photo No 1: Royal Residence

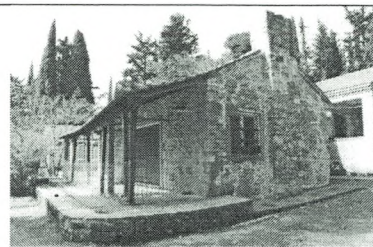


Photo No 2: Director's Building



Photo No3: Staff Building



Photo No 4: Building for the workers



Photo No 5: Creamery



Photo No 6: Forestry Department



Photo No 7: Guardhouse of the Internal gate



Photo No 8: Hotel Tatoion



Photo No 9: Kitchen



Photo No 10: Building for the Officers of the Guard



Photo No 11: Old Barn



Photo No 12: Sturm House



Photo No 13: Telecommunications Building



Photo No 14: Winery



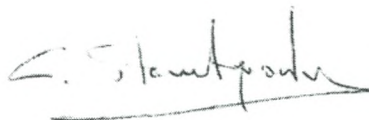
Photo No 15: Stables

Name of the Photographer:
Dimitris Ioannidis
(all images are copyright-free)

Declaration of nominator

I wish to nominate the above-named entry to the 7 Most Endangered 2013. I confirm that I have obtained permission from the owners of the copyright in order that Europa Nostra and partners can freely use the photographs and material submitted (and others subsequently requested) for all purposes of publication and promotion of the 7 Most Endangered Programme. Any reproduction rights, releases and/or permissions are my responsibility.

Date: 15 March 2013



Dr Costas Stamatopoulos

Checklist

- ☒ Nomination form in word format, filled out in English and with the digital signature of the nominator
- ☒ Up to 15 digital images(about 1024x683 pixels each, jpeg format)(e.g. actual or historic photographs, maps or drawings) as listed at section K of the nomination form
- ☒ A limited amount of additional or larger supplementary information (such as publications, press clippings or press releases) may be sent in digital form only. This material may be in other languages than English.

EUROPE'S 7 MOST ENDANGERED

by Costa Carras, Vice President, Europa Nostra

A frequent accusation against European Institutions is that they live in a closed world, cut off from the life of citizens. Not always! As long ago as 1978, Europa Nostra, the federation of European cultural heritage NGOs, began to give awards for excellence in the conservation of monuments, townscapes and landscapes. In 2002, the European Commission took up the practice: today the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards are an annual event where, in the public honouring of excellence across Europe, one can catch a rare and impressive glimpse of European diversity, European unity and an emerging sense of European identity.

This year another step has been taken. Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank, but also the Council of Europe Development Bank, have joined in a new annual effort to identify the "7 Most Endangered" monuments and sites in wider Europe and to follow up their identification with efforts to contribute to a resolution of the problems they face. This first year's short list of 14 nominations was published on April 18th, International Day of Monuments and Sites. In its geographical and thematic diversity the list illustrates the wide range of issues relating culture to politics – and vice versa. [Ref.1]

Under the European Union Treaty cultural heritage is primarily a national responsibility. So what happens when nation states are effectively bankrupt? Are monuments to be allowed to gently decay or even to collapse? The inclusion on the short list of the earliest church of the Manueline style, in the town of Setubal, Portugal, for which there exists a Portuguese conservation plan but no money, raises the problem in an acute form. If one believes there is such a thing as European cultural heritage – there are of course some people who still think "all culture is local" – then should there not be a European budget to cover such exceptional instances? Article 3.3 of the Treaty would justify the creation of such a budget. [Ref.2] Or what of the Renaissance monastery of San Benedetto Po, meticulously restored with local funds only to be seriously damaged by the May 2012 earthquakes, at a time where there is no longer local funding available? Or what of the forest and buildings of the 19th century palace complex in Tatoi, near Athens, which could be made economically viable again, as it once was, but because of financial stringency, is in danger of being instead disposed of in what might prove a fire-sale?

bitter brine, streams of it pouring down his head.
But half-drowned as he was, he'd not forget his craft –
he lunged after her through the breakers, laying hold
and huddling amidships, fled the stroke of death.
Pell-mell the rollers tossed her along down-current,
wild as the North Wind tossing thistle along the fields
at high harvest – dry stalks clutching each other tightly –
so the galewinds tumbled her down the sea, this way, that way,
now the South Wind flinging her over to North to sport with,
now the East Wind giving her up to West to harry on and on.

... ..

Yes, but now,
adrift on the heaving swells two nights, two days –
quite lost – again and again the man foresaw his death.
Then when Dawn with her lovely locks brought on
the third day, the wind fell in an instant,
all glazed to a dead calm, and Odysseus,
scanning sharply, raised high by a groundswell,
looked up and say it – landfall, just ahead.
Joy . . . warm as the joy that children feel
when they see their father's life dawn again,
one who's lain on a sickbed racked with torment,
wasting away, slowly, under some angry power's onslaught –
then what joy when the gods deliver him from his pains!
So warm, Odysseus' joy when he saw that shore, those trees,
as he swam on, anxious to plant his feet on solid ground again.

HOMER – The Odyssey

Translated by Robert Fagles (Penguin Classics)

But now Poseidon, god of the earthquake, saw him –

...

he spied Odysseus sailing down the sea
and it made his fury boil even more.

...

With that he rammed the clouds together – both hands
clutching his trident – churned the waves into chaos, whipping
all the gales from every quarter, shrouding over in thunderheads
the earth and sea at once – and night swept down from the sky –
East and South Winds clashed and the raging West and North,
sprung from the heavens, roiled heaving breakers up –
and Odysseus' knees quaked, his spirit too;
numb with fear he spoke to his own great heart:
"Wretched man – what becomes of me now, at last?
I fear the nymph foretold it all too well –
on the high seas, she said, before I can reach
my native land I'll fill my cup of pain! And now,
look, it all comes to pass. What monstrous clouds –

...

churning the seas in chaos, gales blasting,
raging around my head from every quarter –
my death-plunge in a flash, it's certain now!
Three, four times blessed, my friends-in-arms
Who died on the plains of Troy those years ago,

...

A hero's funeral then, my glory spread by comrades –
Now what a wretched death I'm doomed to die!"

At that a massive wave came crashing down on his head,
a terrific onslaught spinning his craft round and round –
he was thrown clear of the decks –

the steering-oar wrenched
from his grasp –

and in one lightning attack the brawling
gale-winds struck full-force, snapping the mast mid-shaft
and hurling the sail and sailyard far across the sea.
He went under a good long while, no fast way out,
no struggling up from under the giant wave's assault,
his clothing dragged him down – divine Calypso's gifts –
but at last he fought his way to the surface spewing

Another set of issues is raised by the pan-European drive for modernity. It so happens that Berlin is the European city with the largest surviving number of gas lamps, a positive feature of life for most Berliners. It also so happens that the City Senate and Department for City Development wish to electrify street lighting and that German conservationists are firmly opposed. Similarly, a fishermen's quarter in Valencia is threatened by a City Council plan for a through road to the port. And an even more devastating proposal threatens one of Transylvania's most beautiful, scenic and historic regions, Rosia Montana, home to perhaps the best preserved Roman tunnel mining complex in Europe. A proposal for open cast mining to obtain the remaining gold by a Canadian-based company would destroy scenery and heritage alike. It is truly impressive that so well argued has been the principled resistance by Romanian conservationists and their allies across Europe that the Romanian government fortunately still hesitates to grasp for the gold, permit the use of cyanide and destroy its heritage, despite the siren call of those promoting unsustainable development with only short term gains. [1-3]

How best to preserve the archaeological record of the past, which so often obtrudes on political objectives of the present? In Dürres, Albania, a Roman amphitheatre has been recently discovered in the midst of the modern town. By contrast, in Serbia a neglected Neolithic site of European importance on the Danube gradually dissolves. In Turkey, the extraordinary site of Hasankeyf on the Tigris, a store of archaeological knowledge, is threatened with the fate of Allianoi located to its west, namely permanent disappearance under the waters of a dam. And how damnable the consequences may be can be seen in Armenia, where a Soviet-era dam means a 5th century church spends half the year under water. Should the Ministry of Culture attempt to dismantle the already weakened structure and rebuild? Or should the authorities set a limit to the annual rise of the waters? These conflicts are not at all conflicts between past and present. In Dürres, for instance, it is very clear that economic rationality demands the Roman amphitheatre's conservation.

Cultural heritage forms an important part of most people's identities. Sometimes, as with the superb 18th century citadel in Alessandria, Italy, or the magnificent 17th century fortifications by Vauban in Briançon, of pride in local and national identity. Sometimes it can represent a moving recognition of another's identity as with the Armenian Catholic Church of St George in Mardin, nominated by Europa Nostra Turkey. And sometimes it is a matter of mutual recognition and reconciliation, as in the ongoing work of the UN and many devoted conservationists of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in

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"Wretched man – what becomes of me now, at last?
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Nicosia, Europe's still divided city where those who work for past heritage are striving simultaneously for present and future reconciliation.

If Europe is a matter of ideology or of interest, cultural heritage may or may not count, depending on one's ideology or interest. For those, more empirically minded, who prefer to apprehend the general through the particular, the diverse yet united heritage of Europe provides a royal road for discovery of the need and benefits of unity.

Ref. 1: <http://www.europanostra.org/news/331/>

Ref.2: Article 3.3 from the CONSOLIDATED VERSION OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION dated 30 March 2010:

" The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance.

It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child.

It shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States.

It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced."

Ref.3:

[http://www.europanostra.org/UPLOADS/FILS/Europa 20Nostra Interview Rosia 20Montana ENG final.pdf](http://www.europanostra.org/UPLOADS/FILS/Europa%20Nostra%20Interview%20Rosia%20Montana%20ENG%20final.pdf)



PRESS RELEASE

Europe's 7 Most Endangered Monuments and Sites Announced

Athens, 12 June 2013 - The Roman amphitheatre in Durrës in **Albania**, the buffer zone in the historic centre of Nicosia in **Cyprus**, Vauban's 17th century fortifications in Briançon in **France**, the Renaissance monastery of San Benedetto Po in **Italy**, the 15th century monastery in Setúbal in **Portugal**, the historic mining landscape of Rosia Montana in **Romania** and the Armenian church of St. George in Mardin in **Turkey** have been selected as the 7 most threatened landmarks in Europe. The announcement was made today by the leading European heritage organisation **Europa Nostra**, together with the **European Investment Bank Institute**, at a press conference in **Athens**, on the eve of its 50th **Anniversary Congress**. These gems of Europe's cultural and natural heritage are in danger, some due to lack of funds or expertise, others due to inadequate planning, neglect, natural disaster or even political conflict. Urgent action is therefore required.

"These monuments and sites were selected not only because they tell a fascinating story about our shared past, anchoring the sense of belonging to a European family, but also because they are highly valuable to the local communities who are strongly engaged in saving them. Rescuing these sites would also act as a catalyst for the social and economic revitalisation of entire cities or areas. This is why Europa Nostra calls upon many public and private partners, at local, national and European levels, to join forces with them to ensure a promising future for the selected sites," stated **Plácido Domingo**, President of Europa Nostra.

"Investment in heritage conservation contributes to sustainable development and ultimately to growth and employment through its positive impacts on the local and regional economies. Support to heritage conservation therefore falls well within the remit of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB Institute, together with Europa Nostra and associated partners, will undertake the necessary efforts to assess the selected sites and to contribute to the development of realistic action plans, in close cooperation with the national and local public and private entities," added **Rémy Jacob**, Director General of the EIB and Dean of the EIB Institute.

Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute, founding partner of 'The 7 Most Endangered' programme, will undertake rescue missions to these heritage sites after the summer. More specifically, experts appointed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**, an associate partner, will provide analysis and advice on how funding could be obtained, for example, through European Union funds or, in appropriate cases, loans. The initial rescue action plans will be presented at the European Heritage Policy Conference, organised by Europa Nostra, in Brussels on 5 December 2013.

"For 50 years, Europa Nostra has been active in saving endangered heritage all over Europe, from the ancient site of Delphi in Greece in the early 1980s to the historic city of L'Aquila in Italy in the 2010s. We are proud that this year, for the first time, we have launched an advocacy and operational scheme in partnership with such a prestigious financial institution as the European Investment Bank. Our alliance demonstrates the recognition by the EU Institutions of their responsibility towards safeguarding Europe's cultural heritage, as stated in the Treaty of Lisbon (article 3.3). We expect that 'The 7 Most Endangered' programme will encourage others to support our efforts to rescue and promote the unique heritage of Europe," concluded **Denis de Kergorlay**, Executive President of Europa Nostra.

'The 7 Most Endangered' programme was launched last January, having been inspired by a successful project run by the US National Trust for Historic Preservation. In this initial year, civil society organisations and public bodies from 21 European countries submitted 40 nominations. The 7 Most Endangered for 2013 were selected by Europa Nostra's Board from the 14 sites shortlisted by an advisory panel composed of international experts.

Europa Nostra and its partner the European Investment Bank have consistently stated they will give ongoing advice and support also to the seven shortlisted sites that are not in the final list of The 7 Most Endangered. Tatoi is a very special case because it is of immense importance to the 4 million citizens of Athens and because the Greek state has acknowledged its importance and listed it as a conservation area, on the nomination of Elliniki Etairia, in 2003. Since then various partial restoration works have been carried out,

much of them through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) where the 15-20% national co-financing can be covered by a long-term loan from the EIB. This is already occurring, for instance, in respect of the maintenance and storage of objects of historical or artistic importance at Tatoi. Its problems derive, as stated by our Greek representation, from financial stringency and administrative uncertainty.

Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank are therefore drawing special public attention and will continue offering special support in response to the challenges which Tatoi is today facing, as is indicated by the visit to Tatoi already arranged for today by a high delegation from Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute. On the occasion of its 50th Anniversary Congress in Athens, Europa Nostra is sending a strong signal to all the stakeholders involved on the need to take immediate and effective administrative and other measures to preserve Tatoi for present and future generations of Athenians.

Europa Nostra believes particular attention needs to be urgently given to ensuring a financially viable future for this "lieu de memoire", also a site of great natural beauty. Inspiring examples can be found elsewhere in Europe, such as the British experience with the "Historic Royal Palaces" organization, responsible for managing estates no longer used by their Royal Family.

Tatoi was financially viable in the past and can become viable again, with proper development of the agricultural activities that once flourished there (e.g. wine, oil and dairy products) but also of tourism, as with the existing old boutique hotel, respectful of the history and natural environment of the estate. It is however essential that state ownership and conservation listings are preserved and that an imaginative structure is put in place to promote the future sustainable development of the estate as a whole. Europa Nosta together with Elliniki Etairia, its country representation in Greece, stands ready to assist the Greek authorities in achieving this goal", declared Denis de Kergorlay, Executive President of Europa Nostra

Nominations for 2014 can be submitted until 1 November 2013 by Europa Nostra's country representations, member and associate organisations.

The 7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites in Europe *(listed alphabetically by country)*

Roman Amphitheatre of Durrës in ALBANIA

This early 2nd century AD Roman amphitheatre remained unknown to the world until the 1960s. Located in the very centre of the city, known in antiquity by the name of Epidamnos or Dyrrachium, and with a capacity of 15.000 to 20.000 spectators, it is one of the most remarkable heritage sites not only in Albania but in the whole Balkan region.

Due to its late discovery, the monument has endured chaotic urban planning, which has affected its structure, and it has suffered from continued deterioration. The major challenge is therefore to ensure its successful integration into the urban fabric of Durrës. This heritage gem is also threatened by a lack of financial resources, natural causes and neglect. Encouraging current research projects and raising public awareness about the exceptional value of this amphitheatre are steps which need to be taken urgently.

Its subsequent complete restoration would not only put the ancient city of Durrës back on the map of historic sites in Europe but also trigger the social and economic revitalisation of the second biggest city in Albania.

Buffer Zone in the Historic Centre of Nicosia in CYPRUS

The aftermath of the Cyprus dispute saw the creation of the Nicosia buffer zone in 1974. This area cuts through the historic centre and has disrupted the city's cohesion for almost 40 years. Decades of abandonment have undermined the high architectural value of the buildings, among which are medieval and neoclassical monuments, and had a devastating impact on the quality of the environment and living conditions of the entire city centre. Once the focal point of crafts and trade, the heart of historic Nicosia is today a lifeless 1.5 km corridor.

Since the 1980, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of Nicosia have worked together, with the support of the United Nations, to produce a Master Plan for the revitalisation of the buffer zone. International assistance is today needed to start its implementation by restoring, one by one, the historic buildings located in the Nicosia buffer zone.

This important Master Plan, which is a brilliant example of cultural heritage acting as a catalyst for peace and reconciliation, received a Grand Prix in category research as part of the 2011 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards programme.

Vauban's 17th Century Fortifications in Briançon in FRANCE

Sitting at the crossroads of five alpine valleys at the gates of Italy, Briançon is one of the most spectacular fortified cities in France. In the 17th century, Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, the renowned military engineer

of King Louis XIV, was entrusted with the challenging task of designing these mountain fortifications. This defensive complex comprises urban walls, which spread over more than three kilometres; three forts (Randouillet, Dauphin and Trois Têtes) on the left bank of the Durance river, which are interconnected to the city by the Communication Y and the Asfeld Bridge; and a fourth fort (Salettes) located on the right bank of the river.

This masterpiece of mountain fortifications, considered to be one of the finest in the world and recognised by UNESCO in 2008 as part of the network of 12 fortified ensembles designed by Vauban in France, is today seriously threatened by the degradation of the rocky foundations, severe frost and a general lack of maintenance.

The municipality of Briançon has developed an ambitious strategy for the restoration and promotion of its heritage, relying on the support of local organisations, among others. However, this economic and tourism development plan, based on the revitalisation of Vauban's fortifications, can only be implemented with national, European and international assistance and expertise.

Renaissance Monastery of San Benedetto Po in ITALY

The small city of San Benedetto Po owes its historical, religious and artistic reputation to its namesake abbey complex, which dates back to the 11th century. The main buildings were designed in the 16th century by the Italian architect Giulio Romano, who is also the author of the Palazzo Te in Mantova and is known as the only Renaissance artist mentioned in Shakespeare's work.

During the last decade, an extensive and costly restoration returned this masterpiece to its former splendour. The work was largely completed when the earthquakes of 20 and 29 May 2012 struck, severely damaging the abbey and setting back the entire conservation process. Since then, large parts of the complex have become inaccessible to the public due to the risks of falling debris or collapse.

The restoration of the Monastery of San Benedetto Po is a huge challenge, both in financial and technical terms, which requires widespread cooperation and mobilisation.

15th Century Monastery in Setúbal in PORTUGAL

The Monastery of Jesus in Setúbal, the building of which was concluded in 1494, is one of the first examples of the Portuguese Late Gothic style, known as Manueline. This style skillfully incorporates maritime elements and representations from the pioneering voyages of the Portuguese discoverers. World-renowned - and much better preserved - examples of this architectural style are the Monastery of Jerónimos and the Tower of Belém in Lisbon.

Recognised as a tangible witness of Europe's shared history - having served as the setting for the ratification of the signature of the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 between Spain and Portugal which paved the way for Europe's expansion both to the Americas and to the Far East - the European Commission decided in 2011 to confer to this exceptional monument with the "European Heritage Label".

This gem of our common heritage has been generally closed to the public for more than 20 years. It is in an advanced state of decay and urgently requires European expertise and financial support.

The complete restoration of this ensemble would also act as a catalyst for the social and economic revival of the historic city centre of Setúbal.

Historic Mining Landscape of Roşia Montană in ROMANIA

The landscape of Roşia Montană has been masterfully transformed by mining activities for more than three millennia. The subterranean heritage consists of a vast gallery network (some 150 km, of which 7 km date from Dacian and Roman times) and in situ equipment and artefacts. The remnants of surface habitation (Roman funerary sites, edifices and roads, as well as medieval and modern areas) demonstrate an intense interaction between man and the environment throughout the centuries.

The mining landscape of Roşia Montană, one of the most representatives in Europe, is today seriously threatened by a large-scale, open-cast gold mining project.

Local NGOs, supported by national, European and international heritage organisations, have been campaigning against this project for years. They call for an alternative and sustainable solution, a long-term social and economic development plan based on the preservation of Roşia Montană's unique assets: the mining landscape with its cultural and natural heritage.

Armenian Church of St. George in Mardin in TURKEY

For 15 centuries the Church of St. George was the spiritual home of the large Armenian community in the Turkish city of Mardin. This Grade I registered historical building was founded in 420 AD and was in use until 1915, when the Armenian population had to leave the city. In spite of its outstanding historical and cultural importance, this monument is currently in an advanced state of decay.

Europa Nostra Turkey, with the support of the owner, the Mardin Armenian Catholic Church Community Foundation, is strongly committed to rescuing this tangible witness of Turkey's multi-cultural history. The preservation of the church and its annexes would enable future generations to understand the contribution of Armenian people to Mardin's history and identity and, at the same time, allow a wider public to appreciate their cultural expressions and artistic achievements. The local authorities, who are also aware of the economic advantages from future tourism development, are supportive of restoration projects in their town, but their endeavours need to be encouraged and supported by national and European partners.

Background information:

Europa Nostra - the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe - represents a growing citizens' movement for the safeguarding of Europe's cultural and natural heritage. With its vast pan-European network of members (organisations and individuals), associates and partners, Europa Nostra forms an influential lobby for cultural heritage. It campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes. It seeks to influence European and national policies related to heritage. It celebrates excellence through its Awards Scheme run in partnership with the European Commission. In 2013, Europa Nostra is celebrating its 50th anniversary. www.europanostra.org

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals. www.eib.org

The **EIB Institute** promotes European initiatives for the common good. It was created as part of the EIB Group (European Investment Bank Group) in January 2012 with the aim of acting as a catalyst for social, cultural, educational and research activities that are directed towards economic and social development in Europe. Detailed information on the activities of the EIB Institute can be obtained from its website <http://institute.eib.org/>

The **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** is "the social bank of Europe". A multilateral development bank with 40 member states, it represents a major instrument of solidarity policy in Europe. Preserving Europe's cultural heritage is part of its mandate. www.coebank.org

PRESS CONTACTS

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović

Secretary General of Europa Nostra

E: sgm@europanostra.org

T: +31 70 302 40 56 ; M: +31 65 231 39 71

Giuseppe Simone

Web Communication

E: gs@europanostra.org

T: +31 70 302 40 59; M: +30 69 42 20 89 46

TO FIND OUT MORE

www.europanostra.org/7-most-endangered/

www.europanostra.org/advisory-panel/

twitter.com/europanostra

For High Resolution Photos and Video:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/europanostra>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/EuropaNostraChannel>