

The Hague / Brussels, 07 November

## STATEMENT

## EUROPA NOSTRA EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE SERIOUS THREATS TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE NYBORG CASTLE IN DENMARK

<u>Europa Nostra</u>, the leading European heritage civil society network, covering over 40 countries, and working closely with the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, expresses its concern over the intention by the Danish authorities to build a new information centre at Nyborg Castle at a listed archaeological courtyard and hence undertake an invasive construction project which will irreversibly alter the integrity of the Nyborg Castle.

For the above-mentioned reason, the Danish heritage association "Kultur & Arv" nominated the Nyborg Castle for the <u>7 Most Endangered Programme</u> 2025, a civil society initiative run by Europa Nostra in partnership with the European Investment Bank Institute. The shortlist of the selected 14 sites will be made public in January 2025.

According to our information, the Danish Parliament is currently discussing a special law (which is normally used to allow works on vital infrastructure) to push through the proposed construction of a new information centre at Nyborg Castle in spite of the fact that this project has earlier been rejected by the official "Board of Complaints". This would, in our view, constitute a serious breach of the rule of law since this particular case does not justify the need for overriding the Danish law on heritage protection and for giving larger powers to executive authorities.

Europa Nostra does not object to the construction of an information centre, provided that it is located in an alternative more suitable place. Several NGOs and experts have already made very sensible proposals with this aim which deserve to be taken into account and further studied by the authorities concerned. Such an information centre will indeed be very useful to provide a better understanding of the rich history and importance of the Nyborg Castle and to increase the tourist attractiveness of the site.

In the light of the above, Europa Nostra remains ready to provide its expertise to help find a win-win solution that respects Denmark's laws and heritage, aligns with European and international standards and ensures a viable and sustainable future of this outstanding site, for the benefit of Denmark's and Europe's citizens. The European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage

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