

The Hague, 1st July, 2008

Mr Anders Fogh Rasmussen  
Prime Minister of Denmark  
Christiansborg Slot  
Prins Jørgens Gaard 11  
1218 København K  
DENMARK

**Re: Serious threats to the historic integrity of the inner City of Copenhagen**

Mister Prime Minister,

Our representation in Denmark, Europa Nostra Denmark, has together with our representatives from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia and Latvia brought to my attention an imminent threat to one of Copenhagen most valuable cultural heritage sites and urban landscapes – Bryghusgrunden. They pointed out that the *Realdania* domicile, if constructed, will not only disfigure the world renowned historic centre of Copenhagen but also set a dangerous precedent for possible other valuable historical sites in the capital.

With this letter, I wish to express that Europa Nostra shares their grave concern over the intention of the Copenhagen City Council to grant a construction permit for the massive, new Realdania domicile at the *Bryghusgrunden* next to the *Frederiksholms Kanal* and the inner harbour of the old Copenhagen, one of the most important historical and sensitive area of Denmark's capital.

Although Europa Nostra fully supports contemporary architectural creations and acknowledges that modern architecture can contribute significantly to the beauty and quality of the urban environment and its liveability, we are convinced that certain historically and aesthetically valuable heritage areas such as the unique cultural and historical environment along Frederiksholms Kanal should enjoy the highest level of protection.

Europa Nostra wishes to emphasise that it is the human scale of Copenhagen's old, inner city and its unspoilt character that draw the vast number of tourists to your capital city. Therefore, we believe that a disfigured Frederiksholms Kanal will not only lose its intrinsic historical value but also negatively affect Copenhagen tourism, and hence, economic benefits, not to forget the Copenhageners' quality of life in a well-restored city.

Therefore, Europa Nostra fully supports the protests by Europa Nostra Denmark, the *Kulturmiljørådet for Frederiksberg og Københavns Kommuner*, the *Danmarks Naturfredningsforening*, the *Friluftsrådet*, the *Friends of the Brewery Site* and the *Foreningen Til Gamle Bygningers Bevaring* against the planned construction of the above mentioned domicile. In this context, we wish to strongly underline that the Copenhagen City Council's decision to proceed with the Realdania domicile is, in our view, in serious breach of a number of national and municipal policies and regulations.

The said decision also has a harmful effect on some core values of the Copenhagen historic centre:

- the most important line of sight toward the *Christian the 4<sup>th</sup> Brewery*, the historical government centre of Copenhagen, *Slotsholmen*, as well as the invaluable view from the old city towards the historic inner harbour along the canal all the way to the *Christianshavn* ramparts; as well as
- the unique historical line of façade along the *Frederiksholms Kanal's* southern board.

Europa Nostra, therefore, urges you and the Copenhagen City Council to find an alternative location for the proposed Realdania domicile whose setting will give the required dignity to the architectural project while at the same time ensuring the preservation of the cultural heritage areas along the *Frederiksholms Kanal* and *Slotsholmen*.

On behalf of the members of Europa Nostra's Council gathered in Newcastle, on 15<sup>th</sup> June, for the Europa Nostra's Annual Congress 2008, I urgently strongly appeal to you and the Copenhagen City Council members to use your political and moral authority to prevent the building permit for *Bryghusgrunden* being granted.

A copy of this letter will be sent to Mrs Catharina Collet, President of Europa Nostra Denmark, who is also a Member of Council and Vice -president of Europa Nostra.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Andrea H. Schuler  
Executive President

*About Europa Nostra: Europa Nostra, the pan-European Federation for Heritage, is the representative platform of over 250 heritage NGOs active throughout Europe. It is the voice of organized civil society active in the field of heritage towards EU institutions, the Council of Europe and UNESCO. Its objectives are, among others, to promote high standards of quality in the fields of heritage conservations, architecture, urban and rural planning and to advocate a balanced and sustainable development of urban and rural, built and natural environment. Last but not least, Europa Nostra is responsible for the running of the leading European cultural heritage awards scheme, the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards.*