

building a sense of European citizenship and also further developing cultural tourism and ensuring heritage assets. Dr Harms invited Europa Nostra to present its work to the EDUC Committee at one of its meetings in the second semester of 2008 and thereby raise awareness on the multiple values of heritage and its relevance for sustainable development in Europe's regions. Dr Harms also expressed keen interest in Europa Nostra's next European Cultural Heritage Policy Forum and confirmed the readiness of the Committee of the Regions to cooperate with Europa Nostra to ensure the full success of this important event.

### **MEP Katerina Batzeli, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education expresses keen interest in Europe's cultural heritage issues**

On 8 April Europa Nostra's Secretary General, **Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, and European Policy Officer **Eléonore de Merode**, also met with **MEP Katerina Batzeli**, who was appointed Chair of the EP's Committee on Culture and Education in November 2007. In addition to presenting the various pillars of its work, Europa Nostra took this opportunity to underline the need to mainstream cultural heritage into various EU policy- and action-areas (including environment, energy, climate change, taxation, external relations). To this end it requested the support of the European Parliament for its next European Cultural Heritage Policy Forum, planned for the first semester of 2009. Europa Nostra delegation also informed Mrs Batzeli of the results of the public event organized on 4 April 2008 in Paris (see above or below?) on the safeguard of Famagusta and presented her with a copy of the film "The Stones of Famagusta". The need for safeguarding cultural diversity and cultural heritage in the Western Balkans, in the context of the context of the EU enlargement strategy was thoroughly discussed, and MEP Batzeli invited Europa Nostra to come forward with related policy and/or action recommendations.

### **Conference of the Architects' Council of Europe "Designing for the Future: Architecture and Quality of Life" Brussels, Flagey Building, 10 April 2008**

Europa Nostra was represented by Communications Officer **Laurie Neale** at this high level and important conference, whose aim was to promote the future development of the built environment - based on the highest quality criteria rather than the lowest cost - from conception to maintenance, and placing the citizen at the heart of all policies, fully and holistically taking into account all aspects of sustainability - economic, social, environmental and cultural.

Europa Nostra underlined the importance of including cultural heritage issues and architectural and urban planning projects which incorporate the existing with the new, in discussions and decisions regarding EU architecture policy and practice. By working together, the architectural and the cultural heritage communities will create the most attractive and sustainable living environments, to the benefit of all European citizens.

### **Congress of Europe, The Hague (Netherlands), 23-24 May 2008: Express your ideas for Culture and Cultural Heritage in Europe!**

60 years ago, the model for the European Union as we know it today was conceived at the Congress of Europe held in The Hague with 750 delegates from 26 European countries, organised by the Joint International Committee for European Unity and presided by Winston Churchill.

Since 1948, the European Movement, the Committee's new name as of the Congress, has played an essential role in the process of European integration and 60 years later, it takes up the challenge to organise a second Congress for Europe in The Hague to propose ideas suited to a 21st century Europe.

The Congress of Europe 2008 will bring together the heads of the EU Institutions and European Political Parties, as well as the representatives of European Civil Society, allowing them to directly address these key EU politicians with their concerns and recommendations about Europe's future.