

Europa Nostra General Assembly, 23 June 2018.

Intervention by Pierre LACONTE, Council member, Chair of the Europa Nostra Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee.

“The Europa Nostra Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee has entered its tenth year of activity. It is entirely funded by its twelve members, from different countries and heritage backgrounds. It held 20 meetings hosted in turn by its members. It has been scouting best practices eligible for each of the EN Awards categories, resulting in a notable increase of Awards in its field. It increased the visibility of EN and its membership in the world of industrial and engineering. It organised well attended optional specialised excursions in EN congresses, adding to their attractiveness and results.

In 2019 it intends to publish a brochure about “Ten years of scouting best practices in industrial and engineering heritage”, inspired by the Norwegian and Baltic heritage brochures, and adding to the EN collection of publications. It will be designed by the Danube University with the support of Europa Nostra Austria, in line with its retrieving the EN Awards archives.

More importantly it intends to publish a book on the “First industrial Continent”, stressing the European impact of European industrial projects and their integral part of European history. The Ostrava steel plant, at a time the largest in Europe, delivered steel as well for the Eiffel Tower as for weapons used by all belligerents of European wars. The Brussels Turn und Taxis complex was pioneering an express postal service covering all parts of Charles the Fifth Empire and later providing docks for its trading. One example will be chosen in each country of Europe.

These two publications and other activities aim at pursuing the momentum of the European Year of Cultural Heritage beyond 2018, while further developing its modest volunteer contribution to EN’s “Voice of European Heritage” and its further recognition by both the public and the private sector”.