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Programme Manager  
European Heritage Awards

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**Reference letter of support for Europa  
Nostra award**

Dear Europa Nostra Awards Jury,

It is with great honor and admiration that Estonia nominates Mr Boris Dubovik for the prestigious Europa Nostra Heritage Champions Award. A guardian of Estonia's cultural heritage, Mr Dubovik has dedicated his life to preserving, restoring and promoting the invaluable legacy of Tallinn's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a true European cultural treasure.

Over decades of tireless service, Mr Dubovik has not only excelled in his professional capacity as a heritage expert but has also gone above and beyond as a volunteer, educator and advocate for heritage preservation. His work has left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of Tallinn and Estonia, benefiting locals and visitors from around the world.

Boris served for over two decades as the head of Tallinn's Heritage Conservation Department, where he spearheaded numerous significant restoration and revitalization projects to safeguard the architectural and historical integrity of Tallinn's Old Town. His leadership in this role laid the foundation for much of the city's success as a model for heritage management.

Among Boris's most notable achievements are:

- **Revitalization of Tallinn's churches:** Under his guidance, efforts to restore Tallinn's historic churches have breathed new life into these spiritual and architectural landmarks. His work has ensured these spaces continue to inspire and serve communities while preserving their artistic and cultural essence.
- **Bastion belt restoration:** Mr Dubovik spearheaded initiatives to rehabilitate the bastion fortifications surrounding the Old Town, transforming them into functional and engaging public spaces. His vision not only preserved their historical significance but also integrated them into modern urban life, showcasing a sustainable approach to heritage use.
- **Preservation of residential architecture:** Through detailed research and advocacy, he has protected historic residential buildings, ensuring that Tallinn's Old Town remains a living, vibrant district rather than a museum piece.

- **Public Recognition Through Literature:** He's dedication and passion were immortalized in the book „Vanalinn minu lemmik“ (The Old Town, My Favorite) in 2017, which recounts his personal journey. This inspiring story details how a young Boris became enchanted by Tallinn's Old Town and decided to devote his life to its protection and restoration. The book not only celebrates his career but also shares his vision and deep love for heritage with a wider audience.

Mr Dubovik's impact extends far beyond physical restoration projects. He has been instrumental in educating Estonians and international audiences about the value of cultural heritage. Through public lectures and guided tours, he has shared his extensive knowledge, inspiring countless individuals to appreciate and protect our shared history.

Boris Dubovik's lifelong dedication to protecting and revitalizing Tallinn's Old Town exemplifies the very values that Europa Nostra seeks to honor. His combination of professional expertise, community engagement and volunteerism has created a legacy that will inspire future generations. His contributions have not only benefited Estonia but have enriched the cultural heritage of Europe as a whole.

It is our sincere hope that the jury recognizes Boris Dubovik's extraordinary achievements by awarding him the Europa Nostra Heritage Champions Award. Few individuals embody the spirit of heritage conservation as completely as Boris does and his work serves as a shining example for us all.

Thank you for considering this exceptional candidate for this distinguished recognition.

Yours sincerely,

(signed digitally)

{Märt Volmer}

acting as the Undersecretary for Cultural Heritage

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