

**H.E. Erna Solberg**  
**Prime Minister of Norway**  
**Postboks 8001 Dep.**  
**0030 Oslo, NORWAY**

The Hague, 21 April 2020

**Subject: The Y-Block listed on Europa Nostra's 7 Most Endangered List 2020**

Dear Prime Minister,

First of all, we wish to extend our deep sympathy and solidarity to you and your country in the particularly trying times caused by the covid-19 global pandemic. We wish you every strength and wisdom in steering your country in solidarity and in close cooperation with the rest of Europe and the entire international community.

The world of culture and cultural heritage are among the most affected by the corona crisis, yet they are among key sectors that will contribute to social and economic recovery after the pandemic. Europa Nostra will therefore remain a forceful advocate of the multiple values of cultural heritage for our society, economy and environment.

In the light of the above, Europa Nostra wishes to convey to you our serious concern about the future of the iconic modernist building of Y-Block in Oslo which has been set for demolition. As a European Voice of civil society organisations in the frontline for the protection of cultural heritage, Europa Nostra has already published a [statement regarding the Y-block](#) and joined the Campaign "Let Y stay" to save the building, both in its materiality and in its cultural value. We strongly believe that the Y-Block has a future and that the site has the potential to translate a recent dark moment in Norwegian and indeed European history into a lasting symbol of peace and democracy for Norway, Europe and the world.

For all these reasons, on 24 March 2020 the Y-Block government building was listed as one of the 7 Most Endangered sites in Europe for 2020. The corresponding Press Release is annexed to this letter.

The "7 Most Endangered" Programme is a Europe-wide civil society campaign that identifies endangered monuments and sites in Europe and mobilises public and private partners on a local, national and European level to find a viable and sustainable future for those sites. The 7 Most Endangered programme was launched in 2013 by Europa Nostra, with the European Investment Bank Institute as founding partner. In November 2019, an Advisory Panel of international experts shortlisted 14 of the proposed sites for the 2020 edition of the programme. In March 2020, the Board of Europa Nostra selected the final seven sites to be included in the 2020 list, including the Y-Block in Oslo.



**The European Voice of  
Civil Society committed  
to Cultural Heritage**

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Our organisation has maintained close contact with our main Norwegian member organisation Fortidsminneforeningen, the nominator of the Y-Block to our programme. Most recently, they have informed us about the court decision lifting any legal obstacles for the planned demolition of the building that could start at any moment. This would be highly regrettable, especially in the light of the incumbent difficulties related to the global pandemic that the world will face in 2020 and beyond, with dramatic consequences for our society, our economy and our culture.

Let us add that none of the 36 heritage sites selected until now for the “7 Most Endangered” has been destroyed; the planned demolition of Y-Block in Oslo would be the first and very sad precedent. Moreover, this would mean a major loss for modernist architecture in Europe. Time is running out but we still keep the hope that demolition of the Y-Block building can be avoided. Therefore, together with the European Investment Bank Institute we urge you to accept our proposal for a renewed dialogue and our offer of expertise with the view of ensuring together a promising future for the Y-block.

To conclude, we convey to you our strong disappointment and deep regret with regard to the planned demolition of the Y-Block. In such trying times caused by the corona virus pandemic, a time when widespread concern by citizens cannot be expressed through protest public gatherings, Europa Nostra stands in solidarity with all Norwegian and European citizens who continue to oppose the demolition of the Y-Block.

We keep the hope, dear Madam Prime Minister, that you shall hear our voice and that you shall take a personal interest in our citizens’ appeal to save the Y-block. It is still not too late to save the Y-block building and give it a new life. Let it become both a site of remembrance and a source of pride and confidence for the future in Norway and in Europe as a whole.

Yours respectfully,

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailovic



Secretary General

Guy Clausse



Executive Vice-President

Annex 1: Press release *European Call to save 7 Most Endangered Heritage Sites*

