

**Lydia Carras, President of ELLINIKI ETAIRIA – Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, at the online event for the Live Announcement of the 7 Most Endangered 2021.**

Dear Commissioner, dear Friends of Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank, dear participants, Καλημέρα!

Today's event we think is particularly important for our European Heritage.

Europa Nostra's **Award Scheme**, which is so valued throughout Europe, acknowledges the efforts of so many throughout Europe who apply excellence in their work of restoration.

The moments awards are handed to recipients, are moments that unite all Europeans in a common celebration, really precious moments we can all share.

The **7 Most Endangered**, is a more difficult and in my mind a more mature exercise. It shows that we in Europe and for the sake of our heritage, are prepared to criticise our own authorities, and ask the help of civil society in other countries to save a monument, a site, a landscape.

We ask this help, after we have used all our energy to save it, and humbly and unashamedly ask for European help. This I think is **Europe at its best**, understanding each other's concerns and giving support on occasions of difficulty.

Elliniki Etairia and a really wide spectrum of citizens in Greece, are very grateful for your selection of the islands of the Aegean as one of the 7 most endangered in Europe this year.

These islands of the Aegean still remain a place where human beings can feel God's creation.

They are small, little dots on our planet, but the beauty of this creation is reflected in pristine landscapes, that mix with the sea, and where people over the centuries have created villages and monuments in harmony with nature.

Yes, the islands do need some renewable energy for their local needs, but they should not be turned into industrial zones with colossal wind turbines to be used by cities.

Greece needs renewable energy, and it is already in a position to fulfill the quota required by Europe. **We believe in renewable Energy for our country, but with the right zoning.**

So the European acknowledgment of the importance of this issue, will give new hope to all these communities and to many others who are asking our support and will allow us to intensify our campaign.

These islands will hopefully be preserved, and remain for Greeks and Europeans to enjoy.

Ευχαριστώ!!!

Lydia Carras