



Ministry of Education and Culture
24.10.2014/ Mr. Rauno Anttila

ATFORT –final conference 27.10.2014, Suomenlinna

Ladies and gentlemen; partners of the ATFORT project,

As chairman of the Board of the Governing Body of Suomenlinna for twenty years, I have had a privileged position from which to follow the development of Suomenlinna in the hands of the Governing Body. During this time I have also been able to ascertain how important international co-operation has been to Suomenlinna.

The first large international seminar, held here in the Tenaille von Fersen building thirty years ago, helped Suomenlinna to update its restoration guidelines and was fruitful in making Suomenlinna a world-heritage site.

Since that time, Nordic co-operation on heritage management and on fortifications has evolved. Suomenlinna has also been networking on a European level. I especially remember one Culture-2000 project, where one of the project results was a book called *Reviving Monuments*. We managed to persuade STORA ENSO to finance the publication, so it was printed on Finnish paper from our own beautiful birch forests.

In the book it is said that the re-use of monuments is a subtle alchemy between places, people and time, and that the successful re-use of monuments is a mixture of individual initiative and collective ambition. I agree. We need solid public structures taking responsibility for our monuments, but the role of private initiative is becoming more and more important. There is a need for innovative management to combine preservation and profit.

International co-operation often stops when the project funding is over. Today, I am happy to sign this declaration of intent, providing continuity to the fruitful ATFORT project in a form of a network on military heritage sites, co-ordinated from the new platform founded in Forte Marghera, Venice.