



# Municipality of Ventotene

## Province di Latina

### Island of Peace – Gateway to Europe

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With this note, the undersigned Gerardo Santomauro, Mayor of the City of Ventotene, Province of Latina, Lazio Region, Italy, presents the application for the European Flag for Ventotene.

To this end, it encloses a report that allows the Committee to appreciate the work that the town of Ventotene has been doing for 38 years in support of the existence of the European Union and the dissemination of its values and development policies, starting from the premises that have found in Ventotene the first historical formulation of the need for its birth. In fact, the island of Ventotene is the place where Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi, together with many intellectuals "confined" here for political reasons have had the courage and foresight to write the famous Manifesto: "For a free and united Europe".

In 2019, Ventotene was awarded the European Diploma 2019 and the title of City of Culture 2019 by the Lazio Region. Now the Region has prepared a law to recognize it as "a place of reference for the youth of Europe".

In 2019 Ventotene consolidated the structure of the "Europa Table" which gathers the major Europeanist movements and plans the implementation of initiatives that promote Europe and its values and that develop on the island and outside it.

At the same time, it is strengthening the reception structures and the usability of the historical heritage, which can demonstrate "why" and "how" the idea of Europe was born and justifies the existence of the European Union.

Finally, it is establishing collaborations with Organizations, Associations and Structures that can qualify and innovate the teaching systems and learning methods that are tested and developed on the island so as to be an avant-garde school both for the content transmitted and for the methodologies adopted.

In 2020, the probable recovery and transformation into a research and training centre of the Bourbon prison on the Island of Santo Stefano, thanks to the government's allocation of 7 million Euros, will make it possible to welcome a large number of people from all over Europe.

Ventotene, however, looks beyond this and is collaborating to bring the European example to all those parts of the world where war continues to exist and where the idea of the federation of states that Altiero Spinelli indicated in the Manifesto can be an example and a model to follow..

For all these reasons, Ventotene is asking to be awarded "Flag of Europe".

We are confident that our request will be accepted

Sincerely  
Gerardo Santomauro

Ventotene, 17.12.2019