



Chairmanship of the Czech Republic
Council of Europe
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Présidence de la République tchèque
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai – Novembre 2017



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***NINETEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

*Organised under the auspices of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe*

“The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy”

**Brno, Czech Republic,
5-6 September 2017
*Study visit, 7 September 2017***

WELCOME SPEECH

Mr Kimmo AULAKE

Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic,

Minister of the Regional Development of the Czech Republic,

Rector of Mendel University in Brno,

Governor of the South Moravian Region,

Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno,

Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,

Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges of the Conference of
INGOs of the Council of Europe,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming from Finland, it is a great pleasure and honour to visit the Czech Republic and I am delighted that this 19th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "*The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy*", is organised under the auspices of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

I thank the Government of the Czech Republic very much for its hospitality and I am pleased to see that so many ministries, local and regional authorities and other participants are represented here. This is an indication that public authorities appreciate the importance and strength that the landscape has for our societies. The Parties to the convention have indeed undertaken to integrate landscape into various policies such as regional and town planning policies, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, and any other policies with a possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

It should be pointed out that the Council of Europe member States, having acceded to the convention, know that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields. This awareness is expressed in the convention as follows: "...the landscape contributes to the formation of *local cultures* and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity".

I am particularly interested, as Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), to hear presentations from the many representatives of the States Parties to the convention and other participants, whose examples are already inspiring us.

The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the ideals and principles which are their common heritage. Policies which take care of landscapes' human and natural diversity play an important part in this process.

Thank you for your attention.