



**Chairmanship of the Czech Republic**  
Council of Europe  
May – November 2017

**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***

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### ***CLOSING SPEECH***

**Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS**

*Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe*

This 19<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention was a great opportunity to share experiences and practices on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level. The work carried out and the conclusions will be brought to the attention of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, and to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape.

Landscape is a subject encompassing different disciplines and different responsibilities, never ceasing to amaze us and to present us with one of the major challenges for the future. It attracts, inspires, worries and saddens us; it changes our behaviour, our attitudes and our ways of thinking.

The public authorities, at national, regional and local level, which have pledged to give more thought to landscape, bear a great responsibility. The aim is to ensure the best protection, management and planning of the landscape which is considered a place where people live, a vast mosaic of the natural and cultural heritage, a source and a resource for present and future generations.

This Meeting drew our attention to the issue of “sustainability” at local level: what has happened to our landscapes, what is happening to our landscapes, and what will happen to them in the years ahead? Are

we controlled by, or in control of, these landscapes, and how is it that they enable us to live if we can make them live?

Mrs Małgorzata Opechowska, Senior Expert, National Secretary for the Landscape Convention, Department for Nature Protection, General Directorate for Environmental Protection of Poland and Mr Tapio Heikkilä, Senior Environmental Counsellor, Department of the Natural Environment, Ministry of the Environment of Finland, Chairs of the Workshop 3 of this Meeting, considered that:

*“Landscape is a central source of the identities for citizens. Awareness of landscapes and their values is promoting people to maintain their environment. Local level is the most important platform to encourage people to manage their landscapes, together, with joy. A possible starting point to celebrate landscapes and our relationship with it might be the international landscape day every 20 October, the anniversary day of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe”.*

It should be therefore possible to send a *“Message from Brno”* noting that the participants in this Meeting expressed the wish that on the occasion of the *First International Landscape Day* of the Council of Europe which will be held on 20 October 2017, “local authorities should be invited to celebrate the landscape as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity”.

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Many thanks again to the Government of the Czech Republic, to the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of School, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic, to the Mendel University in Brno, to the South Moravian Region, to the Statutory City of Brno, Masaryk University and Brno University of Technology for this wonderful hospitality and for offering us the great opportunity to re-discover or discover the Czech Republic and its beautiful Region of South Moravia.

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