



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 Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO

*Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Head of Department, Culture, Nature and Heritage, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe*

Mr Vladislav SMRZ, Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic,

Mr Vladimír DOLEJSKÝ, Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic,

Mr Ladislav HAVEL, Rector of Mendel University in Brno,

Mr Bohumil ŠIMEK, Governor of the South Moravian Region,

Mr Petr VOKŘÁL, Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno,

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

Mrs Sanja LJESKOVIC MITROVIC, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe I would like to express our great pleasure at being in Brno for the 19th 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, by the Council of Europe, and in co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of the Regional Development, the Ministry of the Agriculture, the Ministry of the Culture and the Ministry of the School, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic, in partnership with Mendel University in Brno, Masaryk University, and South Moravian Region.

I would particularly like to convey our appreciation that you have hosted this event in the beautiful historical City of Brno, in this prestigious Mendel University. As a biologist, I would like to pay a special tribute to Johann Gregor Mendel for his major contribution to the progress of science.

I would like to warmly thank:

- Mr Richard BRABEC, Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic;
- Mrs Karla ŠLECHTOVÁ, Minister of the Regional Development of the Czech Republic;
- Mr Ladislav HAVEL, Rector of Mendel University in Brno;
- Mr Bohumil ŠIMEK, Governor of the South Moravian Region;
- Mr Petr VOKŘÁL, Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno,

I would also like to thank:

- Mr Pavel SEKÁČ, Deputy Minister of the Agriculture of the Czech Republic;
- Mrs Marcela PAVLOVÁ, Deputy Minister of the Regional Development of the Czech Republic, and her representative, Mr Roman VODNÝ, Director of the Department of Spatial Planning;
- Mr Vlastislav OURODA, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic; and

– Mr Václav PÍČL, Deputy Minister of the Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, and his representative, Mr Petr BANNERT, Director of Department of Secondary and Tertiary Vocational Education and Institutional Education.

This high level inter-ministerial Meeting of an exceptional nature is highly appreciated. It expresses the importance to be accorded to landscape in the ministries concerned, in order that national policies encourage the consideration of landscape at each level of authority – national, regional and local – according to the division of powers of each State.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks, for their excellent co-operation with the Council of Europe in organising this event, to:

– Mr Jiri KLAPSTE, Director of the Department of General Landscape Protection of the Ministry of the Environment;

– Mrs Júlia TÓBIKOVÁ, Senior official, National Representative to the European Landscape Convention, Department of General Landscape Protection of the Ministry of the Environment;

– Mr Jan BROJÁČ, Senior official, Department of International Relations of the Ministry of the Environment; and

– Mrs Alena SALASOVA, Professor at the Department of Landscape Planning, Faculty of Horticulture, of Lednice.

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I would like to extend warm thanks for their full support in promoting implementation of the Convention to:

– Mr Kimmo AULAKE, Chair of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe;

– Mrs Sanja LJESKOVIC MITROVIC, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention; and

– Mr Thierry MATHIEU, Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe.

We thank for their much appreciated participation:

– Mrs Olga DOČKALOVÁ, Mayor of Sudice, Representative of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic;

– Mrs Regína VŘESKÁ, Mayor of Zbyslavice, Vice-president of the Association of Local Municipalities of the Czech Republic of the Moravian-Silesian Region;

– Mr Pavel ČÍŽEK, Mayor of Spálené Poříčí; and

– Mr Martin ANDER, Deputy Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno.

Many thanks for their much valued attendance to the Chairs of the workshops, the speakers, participants from the Czech Republic and from all the States represented at this meeting, professionals, academics and friends of the landscape.

Thank you for your attention.

