



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

FIFTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Sustainable Landscapes and Economy

On the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape

—
Urgup, Nevşehir, Turkey
1-2 October 2014

Mr Bruno FAVEL, Chair of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

Mr Lütü AKÇA, Professor, Under Secretary to the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey,

Ms Liv Kristine MORTENSEN, President of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,

Ms Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Secretary of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape, Council of Europe,

Mr Ahmet ÖZYANIK, General Director of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey,

Mr Erdal KAYAPINAR, General Director of Spatial Planning, Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation, Turkey,

Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER, Chair of the Landscape Working Group, Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this message I wish you every success at the 15th Council of Europe meeting of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, held in this extraordinary city of Urgup, and I offer my sincere thanks to the authorities of Turkey for their welcome.

I cannot fail to mention the dramatic events facing our States, and I hope that we shall, together, be able to find the paths of peace while respecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and opened for signature by its member States in Florence in the year 2000. 38 Council of Europe member States have so far ratified it, and other States have expressed a wish to do so in the very near future.

As you are aware, the Convention's purpose is to promote the protection, management and development of landscapes and to promote international co-operation.

This meeting, entitled "*Sustainable Landscapes and Economy – On the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape*", draws our attention to the links which exist between landscape and the economy, between the economy and landscape.

It also draws our attention to the issue of sustainability: 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?

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 of the future.

It attracts, inspires, worries and saddens us, it changes our behaviour, our attitudes, our ways of thinking.

Those governments which have pledged to give more thought to and do more about this subject therefore bear a heavy responsibility: the aim is to ensure the best protection, management and development of the landscape considered as the place where people live, as a vast mosaic of the natural and cultural heritage and as a source and a resource for present and future generations.

Please accept my apologies for my absence and my best wishes for a successful meeting.