

Our distinguished Hosts
Dear colleagues and participants
Ladies and gentlemen

As chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention I will warmly thank the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable development of Andorra and the Council of Europe – Directorate of Democratic Governance, Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention for organising this 16th workshop.

At this meeting we will discuss "Landscape and transfrontier cooperation" and the fact that "The landscape knows no boundary". The quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and the Convention acknowledge that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. Further emphasizes the Convention that 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.

The European Landscape Convention is an instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe and it is designed to promote sustainable development, based on a harmonious balance between social needs, economic activity, the environment and culture, devoted to the enhancement of landscapes. The Convention is thus important as a means of implementing the prime objectives of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to deal with some main problems facing the society today.

The aims of this 16th workshop is to analyse experiences, achieved or ongoing, of transfrontier co-operation. With reference to Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention. The report and results of this Meeting will be submitted to the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) and to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

I am sure that the discussions and exchanges that will take place during this workshop will further reinforce the role the European Landscape Convention holds as a key tool for successful 'living together' also across borders, ensuring access to democratic participation for all people and help improving the quality of life for everyone.

I wish this Workshop great success.
Thank you for your attention.