

Landscape and Democracy

Maria José Festas

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Landscape and Democracy?

- Direct link?
- Why? How?

Landscape (ELC): “Landscape” *means an area, as **perceived by people**, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*

Democracy (Yves document): “*The political system in which the people are sovereign*” or “*A democratic society is one which is aware that it is divided, in other words shot through with conflicts of interest, and which decides to operate by involving every citizen in equal measure in the expression, analysis and consideration of those conflicts, with a view to finding a compromise*”(Paul Ricoeur’s definition)

or

ELC and Democracy?

The ELC points to a democratic process:

- Definitions (Article 1): Landscape (perceived by **people**), Landscape quality objective (*formulation by the **competent public authorities** of the aspirations of the **public** with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings*)
- Article 5, c): ***procedures** for the **participation** of the **general public, local and regional authorities**, and **other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies** mentioned in paragraph b above*
- Article 6, C (Identification and assessment), 1 (*With the **active participation of the interested parties**, as stipulated in Article 5.c, ...*), a., b (***interested parties** and the **population concerned***)
- Article 6, D (Landscape quality objectives): ***after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c***

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- Part 1, G. Make use of public participation: *All action taken to define, implement and monitor landscape policies should be preceded and accompanied by procedures for participation by members of the public and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of enabling them to play an active role in formulating, implementing and monitoring landscape quality objectives*
- I.2 Definitions: ... *It implies recognition of the rights and responsibilities of populations to play an active role in the processes of acquiring knowledge, taking decisions and managing the quality of the places where they live. Public involvement in decisions to take action and in the implementation and management of such decisions over time is regarded not as a formal act but as an integral part of management, protection and planning procedures.*

II.1 (Division of powers and administrative structures): ... *Within its landscape-administration structures and procedures each state should define the criteria for **public participation** and ways of organising it. ...*

II.2 (Criteria and instruments for landscape policy): ... ***Participation, consultation, pooling of ideas and approval** (between institutions and the **population**, horizontal and vertical) should be organised at **all stages** in this process. ...*

II.2.2 (Definition of landscape quality objectives): *The objectives They should be drawn up, **linking** the social requirements and values attached to the landscape by the **public to** the choice of **policy decisions** made concerning the substance of the landscape components. ...*

II.2.3 (Participation): ***all of the text***

Yves document

Some issues raised: *many questions, such as territorial governance, academic knowledge/empirical know-how, interest of the public, relations between politics and civil society, procedures of participation and process of decision-making*

Different types of democracy:

- *Direct democracy*
- *Indirect or representative democracy: parliamentary, presidential, semi-presidential, assembly-based and liberal democracy*
- *Semi-direct democracy*

Introductory remarks on the links between different forms of democracy and the landscape (pages 8-9)

- ✓ *The first relates to the idea that societies form of the landscape. The situation differs according to whether the landscape is regarded as something outstanding or is equated with people’s everyday living environment*
- ✓ *The second has to do with the applicable level of governance. The situation differs according to whether people think in terms of a national scale or an activity is carried out at local or regional level*
- ✓ *Thirdly, the relationship between democracy and landscape varies according to the political and social status of the people involved. The process of drawing up laws or other measures or launching development, management or protection activities will differ according to whether it involves elected representatives, associations or just local residents*
- ✓ *Lastly, the participatory process depends on what we mean by it. The role of citizens, experts, political leaders and institutions will differ according to whether the process is one of information, consultation, discussion or participation*

Other issues raised (Note: my interpretation):

- ✓ *The meaning that is assigned to the landscape determines the democratic quality of the debate between those concerned and of the political decisions taken*
- ✓ *The level of governance is therefore a key factor in the proper exercise of democracy with regard to landscape issues. The local level is therefore the one at which the democratic process is most operational, although it raises countless questions. It is clear in particular that this is the level that most enables residents to regain control over the quality of their living environments*
- ✓ *Status of the people involved*
- ✓ *Types of participation procedures: communication, information, consultation, dialogue and exchange, concerted action, negotiation (Note: but the ELC also speaks of involvement)*
- ✓ *Role of the experts (information, mediator, facilitator, designer?)*
- ✓ *Participatory, interactive, deliberative democracy*

- Two different things: democracy **is different** from and **cannot be reduced** to democratic processes, namely to public participation
- People, population, public, interested parties, relevant stakeholders (who?)
- Public participation, consultation, involvement (when, how, relation with other policies?)

My proposals:

- Clarify what we want (also taking into consideration the decision of the CDCPP)
- 3 documents:
 - ✓ Yves document (issues paper, theoretical basis, but asking him to revise the conclusions)
 - ✓ A simple, clear, easily understandable document for dissemination (leaflet?)
 - ✓ Draft Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers