

## STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

CDCPP (2012) 9

20 March 2012

### 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session

Strasbourg, 14 – 16 May 2012

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## EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

10<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of the European Landscape Convention on  
“ Multifunctional landscape”, Evora, Portugal, 20-21 October 2011 – Evora  
Declaration on the European Landscape Convention

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Document for decision

Item 5.4.3 of the draft agenda

### Draft decision

*The Committee:*

- **noted** the Évora Declaration on the European Landscape Convention and **agreed to transmit** it for information to the Committee of Ministers.

## BACKGROUND

The European Landscape Convention states that the advances in production techniques in agriculture, forestry, industry and mining, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and more generally the global economic changes, have in many cases led to degradation, debasement or transformation of landscapes.

The landscape is however, as the Convention mentions, an essential factor for the quality of life of people. It has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity, particularly to tourism. Each citizen should contribute to preserving the quality of the landscape and it is the responsibility of the public authorities to define the general framework in which this quality can be secured.

It appeared essential in this context to take into account the “multifunctional value” of the landscapes.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention was organised in Evora (Portugal) on 20-21 October 2011 by the Council of Europe – Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage – in cooperation with the Government of Portugal – Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Regional Planning and with the support of the University and the Municipality of Evora and of the Empresa de Desenvolvimento e Infra-estruturas do Alqueva.

The Meeting was addressed to government officials, representatives of local and regional authorities, universities, professionals, governmental and non-governmental organisations working on landscape and sustainable spatial development.

## PROGRESS

### **TENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**Évora, 20-21 October 2011**

#### **“Évora Declaration on the European Landscape Convention”**

The participants in the “Tenth Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, that took place in Évora (Portugal), on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011, voted and unanimously approved the “Conclusions and summary of general comments of the 10th workshops”, and decided to call them the **“Évora Declaration on the European Landscape Convention”**.

#### **Conclusions and summary of general comments**

The “Tenth Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, took place in Évora, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

During two intensive workdays the 150 participants discussed different concepts, issues, case-studies and experiences related to the multifunctional landscape, considering four major headings:

- The cultural dimension of the landscape: For a new approach of the territory;
- The ecological and environmental dimension of the landscape: For harmonious territories;
- The social and economic dimension of the landscape: A potential for well-being and development;
- The landscape governance: A common good and a collective interest.

The conclusions intend to sum-up the main points of the presentations and case-studies and the result of the ensuing discussions. The programme is in annex and the full presentations will be made available afterwards.

**The opening session** had the participation of high level representatives of the following Portuguese and Council of Europe's institutions and organizations: Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development of Portugal, Municipality of Évora, University of Évora, Secretariat General of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Council of Europe Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), the Greek Presidency of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT), the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe as well as the Chair of the Council of Europe Conference for the European Landscape Convention.

The participants in the opening session stressed the importance given to the landscape by the institutions and organizations they represented. They also mentioned the interest of theme of the workshop and its relationship with its venue, given the importance of Évora as a well known World Heritage site, a city of knowledge with its University, and being the center of a region, Alentejo, which has a specific landscape that is a very good example of a multifunctional landscape.

They also highlighted the important role of the European Landscape Convention with its focus on all landscapes – and not just, as it's more usual, focusing on the outstanding landscapes –, the important issue of ensuring landscape quality even for the common landscapes and the integration of “landscape” in spatial development policy as a way to guarantee its adequate management.

It was mentioned also that the landscape is part of the collective memory and identity of a community and that landscape quality is linked to human rights.

**From the other sessions** the following key messages emerged:

- Multifunctionality applied to the landscape is more than just the economic concept; the multifunctional landscape relates to the individual and social wellbeing;
- Multifunctional landscapes are associated to complementarities and complexity;
- Landscape multifunctionality should be extended to all territories;
- Nowadays the landscape can no longer have a single use, but not all landscapes are multifunctional, although a single use doesn't mean “landscape simplification”;

- Landscape multifunctionality has to be planned and adequately managed – it cannot be taken for granted, it needs commitments, has to consider society's demands, needs a new attitude and a new practice;
- Alentejo and “montado” are very good examples of multifunctional landscapes;
- Besides the natural and cultural dimensions, there is an economic and social dimension linked to landscape and in this sense landscape is a resource and a potential for sustainable development;
- The landscape can be considered an economic asset, but at the same time it should be considered a “common good”, thus needing public intervention / regulation to avoid market distortion;
- Landscape, democracy, social and territorial cohesion and citizens' participation are fundamental and related themes;
- The cooperation between different states is fundamental to the enhancement of the landscape, especially in cross-border territories;
- Landscape has the capacity to establish an emotional relationship (positive or negative) between man and the natural and cultural resources; in this sense landscape can be a vital experience;
- The relationship of public and private stakeholders with the landscape and the territorial management systems is very important to ensure its quality;
- Landscape reflects the changing processes of different economic and social models that humanity has experienced as a result of industrialisation, agriculture and urban policies, sectoral policies like tourism and public works (especially infrastructures' networks), energy, and so on;
- Landscape change as a result of man-made processes is increasingly faster especially if compared with the natural processes; at the same time, the scale and type of change is also changing, increasingly consuming more resources and simplifying landscape complexity and character;
- Landscape change should be adequately managed and planned to guarantee landscape quality and social well-being; thus active citizens' participation is fundamental to take into consideration local needs and interests;
- Both rural and urban landscapes are changing although in different ways, but the end result should always be quality landscapes and well-being of the local communities;
- Landscape policy cannot be considered a luxury, because it helps us to find ways to face the crisis, having the capacity to be the driver of social development initiatives, of mobilizing society and of generating inter-community and intergeneration partnerships;
- The economic sustainability of the landscape is directly related to the services it produces;
- Technology is not “everything” – landscape has material and immaterial, tangible and intangible values; thus quantity but also quality criteria need to be taken into consideration in landscape issues;

- Landscape is a resource that produces well-being for man, as an economic and public good, by its biodiversity and as the support to human activities;
- Landscape governance has to be comprehensive, inclusive, aimed at and sensitive to the quality of life of communities and people, whether man or woman, old or young;
- The European Landscape Convention is a good framework for landscape governance – it implements subsidiarity, defines principles and concepts, promotes citizens' participation and the cooperation of different administrative levels, but doesn't impose rules and methodologies;
- It's essential to ensure that landscape diversity, coherent with local identities, is maintained, both at European, national, regional and local level, not as "museum landscapes" but as "living landscapes" even if it means "new quality landscapes" adequate to the 21<sup>st</sup> century,
- The carrying out of these 10<sup>th</sup> Workshops at the same time that the European Landscape Convention celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> years of signature, together with the presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session's Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are a sign of the importance, but also vitality and driver role of the European Landscape Convention for landscape issues;
- The European Landscape Convention can provide an important contribution to the definition of sustainable development models in the different Member states;
- It is essential to raise people's awareness for the landscape so that they integrate a "landscape dream" both in their personal and collective aspirations;
- The "right to the landscape", should be considered a human right of the XXI century.

<b>NEXT STEPS</b>
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Cf. Document CDCPP(2012)7E.

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