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Item 5.3 on the agenda

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

LANDSCAPE AND DEMOCRACY:

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKING PROGRAMME
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

For information

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

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I. Introduction

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 in Strasbourg and opened for signature of the Member States of the Organisation in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000, with the aims to promote European landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of European landscape. The Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

The Preamble of the European Landscape Convention states that the member States of the Council of Europe signatory “wish to respond to the public’s wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes”. The Convention stipulates that the “Landscape quality objectives” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of “the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings” (Article 1, c. – Definitions).

Moreover, each Party undertakes to “establish 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” (Article 5, c. – General measures). The Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention considers the scope of this participation.

1. Working Group of the European Landscape Convention “Landscape and Democracy”

According to the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention for 2015-2017, the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) at its 4th Meeting, Strasbourg, 1-3 June 2015 [[CDCPP\(2015\)15](#)], decided of the “establishment of a working group, supported by expertise, on ‘Landscape and democracy’ to follow up the report ‘Landscape and democracy: prospects’, in order to prepare an issue paper (taking into consideration the contribution of natural and cultural heritage and culture, as an expression of the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spatial diversity and identity of territories)”.

The Working Group of the European Landscape Convention “Landscape and Democracy” is chaired by Mrs Liv Kirstine Mortensen (Norway), Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention. The reports and working documents of the meetings are available on the Website of the Council of Europe <http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention> / Meetings / Working Groups / Working Group on the European Landscape Convention “Landscape and democracy”:

- First Meeting (Andorra la Vella, Andorra, 3 October 2015)
[CEP-CDCPP-WG \(2015\) 37-E - Report](#)
- Second Meeting (Paris, Council of Europe Office, France, 17-18 March 2016)
[Working documents | CEP-CDCPP-WG \(2016\) 6-E - Report](#)

The following persons attend the meetings of the Working Group:

National Representatives responsible for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

ANDORRA: Anna MARINE MOLES, Head of the Landscape, Biodiversity and Environmental assessment Unit, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development

BELGIUM (Wallonia): Mme Mireille DECONINCK, Senior Officer, Ministry of the Walloon Region, the Development Division of Spatial Planning and Urbanism

FINLAND: Mr Tapio HEIKKILÄ, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment

FRANCE: Mr Julien TRANSY, Senior Officer, Landscape and Publicity Office, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea

HUNGARY: Mrs Krisztina KINCSES, Senior Officer, Ministry of Agriculture

MONTENEGRO: Mrs Sanja LJESKOVIC MITROVIC, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,

NORWAY: Mrs Liv Kirstine MORTENSEN, Senior Advisor, Department of Planning, Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention

Former Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention: Mrs Maria José FESTAS, Expert

Expert: Mr Yves LUGINBÜHL, Emeritus Research Director of the National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Secretariat of the Council of Europe: Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention

The Working Group decided to prepare a conceptual report for reference on landscape and the European Landscape Convention's contributions to democracy, human rights and sustainable development and two draft Recommendations;

– the first will address the contribution of the landscape approach, as defined in the European Landscape Convention, to the exercise of democracy and human rights, in a perspective of sustainable development, based on the conceptual report;

– the second recommendation will focus on principles for the participation of the general public in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies, as defined in the European Landscape Convention.

An information brochure will be also prepared.

These documents will be examined on the occasion of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group (Paris, Council of Europe Office, 18-19 October 2016), and then finalised for their presentation at the 9th Conference of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention (March 2017), at the CDCPP and at the Committee of Ministers.

2. Reference documents on landscape and democracy

Various studies developed under the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention, and having already reported links between landscape and democracy, will be used:

– 12th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Thessalonica, Greece, 2-3 October 2012) on “Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning... Another way to see the territory involving civil society...”, Proceedings in: European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, No 99, <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/publications>

– Documents presented on the occasion of the 8th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (March 2015):

- “Considering interrelations between landscape, spatial planning, human rights and democracy”

[Document: CEP-CDCPP (2015) 20
Presentation]

- Report “Landscape and democracy: prospects”

[Document: CEP-CDCPP (2015) 13
Presentation]

- “Establishment of procedures for the participation of the general public and the other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies”

[Document: CEP-CDCPP (2015) 11
Lifescape
Lifescape PowerPoint]

– Also, the Resolution on “Landscape Democracy” adopted by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA-Europe) on the occasion of its Silver Award Jubilee, Oslo, Norway, 19 October 2014

[Document: CEP-CDCPP (2015) 2-B, pp.4-7]

II. Action required

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the progress of the work of the Working Group on the European Landscape Convention "Landscape and democracy";
- make any proposal it deems appropriate;
- designate two contact persons on culture and cultural heritage in order to deal with the integration of landscape in cultural policies, in accordance with Article 5, c. of the European Landscape Convention (see document [\[CDCPP\(2016\)5\]](#) and item 4 on the agenda of this meeting).