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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDCPP

8th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Belgian Chairmanship of
the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

ROLE OF THE LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES, CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
18-20 March 2015

*Document of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe
Directorate of Democratic Governance*

Summary

At its 6th Meeting (Strasbourg, 4-5 November 2014), the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) was informed of the adoption on 23 September 2014 of the Charter of Torino on the Promotion and dissemination of the Landscape Observatories in Europe, and asked the Secretariat to prepare a document on the role of landscape observatories for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, to be examined on the occasion of the 8th Council of Europe Conference on the Convention.

The Conference is invited:

- to consider that numerous landscape observatories, institutes and centres have been created over the last few years according to the Recommendation CM/Rec (2008) 3 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (extracts of the Recommendation on landscape observatories in Appendix 1 of this document);
- to thank Uniscape for the information provided to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe on the holding of an International Seminar on Landscape Observatories in Europe, organised by the University of Turin on 22-23 September 2014 and on a Charter for the “Promotion and dissemination of the landscape observatories in Europe” adopted on this occasion (Appendix to this document);
- to note that the Council of Europe Information System on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention will contribute to identifying these observatories and to including them in an institutional network of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;
- to consider the possibility to organise a meeting of the Workshops on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in order to promote the exchange on information on practices developed by the landscape observatories.

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Appendix 1

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

Extracts concerning landscape observatories

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II.1. Division of powers and administrative arrangements

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In order to make sure that the landscape dimension is incorporated into territorial policies, it is essential to engage in consultation, particularly prior consultation, between the different levels responsible for administering the area concerned (government and local authority departments) and between the different bodies and sectors of the same level (horizontal and vertical consultation).

Consultation should cover both the formulation of general strategies and operational decisions. In this way it will be possible to transcend the unrelated and particularistic interests inherent in a view of quality based only on the protection of specific areas and avoid the risk of different or, indeed, contradictory policies on the part of the various public-service sectors.

At national level, it would therefore be useful to establish permanent consultation processes and procedures and regular meetings between bodies with the most central administrative responsibility (ministries) in order to define and agree strategies and prepare consultation bodies (for example, a standing interdepartmental conference). The same could apply vertically between ministries and lower administrative levels (for example, state-region conferences) and also within the different administrative levels. In addition to these permanent bodies, procedures can be drawn up for collaboration between the different bodies and institutes (public and/or private) specialising in particular national and local problems, especially collaboration between departments responsible for different operational sectors in the regions, in supra-municipal bodies or in municipalities themselves.

Arrangements could also usefully be made for national, regional and local bodies of an advisory and guidance nature to provide assistance to the above-mentioned technical and administrative services (landscape observatories, landscape councils, landscape centres and institutes, etc.). These bodies could be composed of representatives of the administrative authorities, the scientific and professional communities concerned with landscape questions, and associations.

Within its landscape-administration structures and procedures each state should define the criteria for public participation and ways of organising it.

The public authorities should devote human and financial resources to landscape policy: such resources can either be specifically earmarked or come from other sectors (for example, the environment, tourism, public works, culture, etc.), perhaps with the introduction of landscape considerations into the aforementioned sectoral policies.

10. Observatories, centres or institutes

The strong forces surrounding contemporary landscapes and the many problems connected with landscape protection, management and planning necessitate continuous observation and a forum for exchanging information; the creation of landscape observatories, centres or institutes could prove useful for this purpose. Such observatories, centres or institutes would allow observation on the basis of appropriate study protocols employing a range of indicators; they would also allow for the

collection and exchange of information on policies and experience. They could be independent or part of a broader observation system.

These landscape observatories, centres or institutes could be set up at various levels – local, regional, national, international – employing interlocking observation systems, and providing the opportunity for ongoing exchanges. Thanks to these bodies, it should be possible to:

- describe the condition of landscapes at a given time;
- exchange information on policies and experience concerning protection, management and planning, public participation and implementation at different levels;
- use and, if necessary, compile historical documents on landscapes which could be useful for knowing how the landscapes concerned have developed (archives, text, photographs, etc.);
- draw up quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies;
- furnish data leading to an understanding of trends and to forecasts or forward-looking scenarios.

Exchanges of information and experience between states, regions and territorial communities, which already take place, should be based on exemplarity but should always be set against the political, social, ecological and cultural context of the original landscape.

The choice of the composition of observatories is a matter for the administrative bodies concerned but should allow for collaboration between scientists, professionals and technicians from the public authorities and the public.

11. Report on the state of the landscape and of landscape policies

States and regions should draft a report on the state of landscapes in their territories at suitable intervals on the basis of the work of the landscape observatories, centres or institutes. The report should include a policy review in order to check the effectiveness of legislation and action taken.

This type of document drawn up by administrative bodies, landscape observatories, centres or institutes or other bodies and/or in collaboration with those different entities could compare what is actually happening in the concerned area with the landscape guidelines and measures implemented, highlight the results, solutions and problems encountered and indicate new directions. The document should stand on its own or be part of a broader report in which a specific section is devoted to the landscape. However, it should not be a substitute for the regular meetings which states should hold for the purpose of implementing the European Landscape Convention.

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Appendix 2



To the Committee of Ministers
Council of Europe,
Palais de l'Europe,
Avenue de l'Europe,
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex,
France

Our Ref: BP-14-201
Subject: European Landscape Convention

Florence, 7 October 2014

Dear Ministers,

Herewith I have the honour to present to you the attached appeal: the Torino Charter as discussed and approved by the participants of the International Seminar on Landscape Observatories for the European Landscape Convention, held on 22 and 23 September 2014 in Turin (IT). The three networks for the European Landscape Convention UNISCAPE, CIVILSCAPE and RECEP-ENELC are convinced that a wider discussion of the role of Landscape Observatories (LO) would greatly support the governments of the 38 parties to the convention in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar

President UNISCAPE,
Full Professor of Architecture, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Director of the Landscape Observatory of the Canary Islands



UNISCAPE - European Network of Universities for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention

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CHARTER OF TORINO
for the
**PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE LANDSCAPE
OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE**

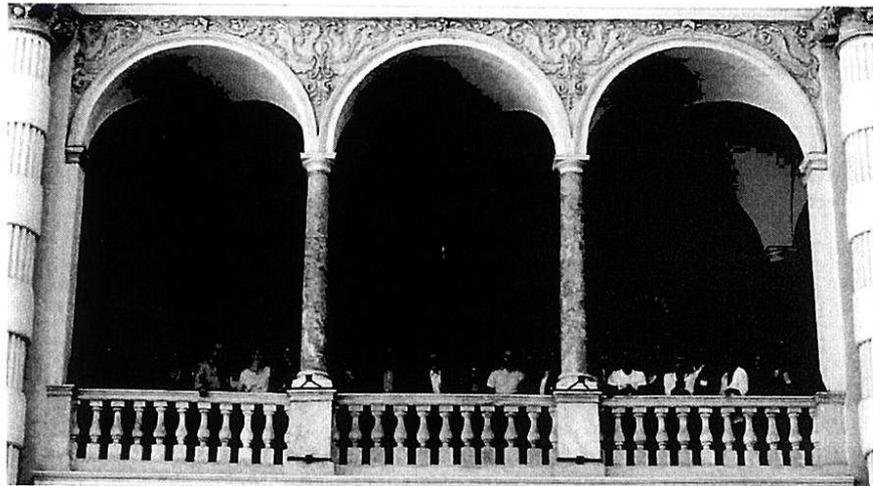


Foto Tommaso Zanaica

The **UNDERSIGNED**

on the occasion of the first UNISCAPE En-Route *International Seminar*
"LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES IN EUROPE II"
which took place in Turin, *Castello del Valentino*, on 22-23 September 2014,

- *considering* that the COUNCIL OF EUROPE RECOMMENDATION CM/Rec (2008)3 identifies LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES as a useful approach for application in all Member States of the principles of the EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION;
- *considering* that the participation of European citizens in the decisions concerning landscape is a priority for their proper and effective protection, management and enhancement;
- *being aware* that the LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES may be the appropriate platform of democratic debate for participatory policies and planning of the landscape;

ADDRESS

the COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS of the COUNCIL OF EUROPE to organise a special conference to exchange experiences and best practices in order to support efforts on establishment of LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES in the different countries. This to be achieved through the preliminary constitution of EUROPEAN COORDINATION between all those existing LO on the basis of studies and activities already carried out by the three European networks UNISCAPE, RECEPE-ENELC and CIVILSCAPE and others.

2/3

Signed in Turin, 23 September 2014

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