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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*

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR THE DEFINITION OF LANDSCAPE QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

Council of Europe  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
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*Document of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe  
Directorate of Democratic Governance*

*Summary*

*The European Landscape Convention and 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 state:*

***European Landscape Convention***

***“D. Landscape quality objectives***

*Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.” (Article 6 of the European Landscape Convention – Specific measures)*

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

***“II.2.2. Definition of landscape quality objectives***

*Certain natural and/or historic elements of places may be given particular attention in order to preserve their specific role, particular historical meaning, and environmental and other potential, for example, in parts of the territory devoted to agriculture, hedges, planted areas, dry-stone or earth walls, terraces, individual monumental trees, springs or historic canal networks. The instruments used may range from forms of legal protection to grants to owners and farmers for upkeep, replanting or integration and to forms of improvement possibly accompanied by teaching material which provides guidance and passes on traditional methods of landscape upkeep.*

*Specific instructions and regulations may be introduced for certain types of operation and change that strongly influence quality of place, for example, electricity lines, telephone networks and masts, wind farms, quarries, mines, commercial and political advertising, leisure facilities (for example, campsites, caravans, recreational facilities) and so on.*

*Certain urban development themes and problems, which should be categorised according to the particular features of the different areas, may be the subject of specific instructions and regulations and may be mentioned as topics for special landscape studies: for example, town approaches, urban fringe, peri-urban areas, linear links between historic centres (ribbon developments) and so on.*

*Conditions for public access to landscapes should be guaranteed with due respect for private property, but access roads, roads, lanes and paths should allow the landscape to be enjoyed; to this end, in agreement with the relevant stakeholders, the authorities may arrange for the removal of visual obstacles or for the construction of viewing corridors on landscape deserving such treatment. Such access roads should also provide facilities for the welfare of users, that is, for their comfort and safety, and comply with sustainable development requirements.*

*The definition of quality objectives should be based on knowledge of the specific characteristics and qualities of the places concerned, and identification of their dynamics and of potential as well as of how landscape is perceived by the public. Certain landscape questions or aspects may receive special attention. Landscape quality objectives represent the end result of the process of devising landscape operations, which implies knowledge production, public consultation, policy formulation and action and monitoring strategies.*

*The objectives should constitute the preliminary guidelines for drawing up the measures to be taken to protect, manage and plan landscapes and manage them over time. 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. Particular importance should be devoted to the range of social perceptions, which reflect the population’s diversity.*

*The concrete application of protection, management and planning choices should cover the whole landscape and refrain from dividing it into the number of elements which compose it: landscape is characterised by the interrelations between several domains (physical, functional, symbolic, cultural and historic, formal, etc.) that constitute both ancient and recent landscape systems. These may be interwoven and superimposed on the same section of territory. Landscape is not simply the sum of its*

*constituent parts.*

*Landscape quality objectives should be defined by general landscape policy instruments for the different levels (national, regional, local, etc.) and formally implemented by town and country planning and development documents, as well as by sectoral instruments; in return, these documents can make a specific contribution to the formulation of landscape quality objectives.*

*To make the process successful, it is necessary to consult the public and all other relevant stakeholders from the outset and secure their approval and involvement.”*

*The Conference participants are invited:*

- to share their experiences regarding the formulation of landscape quality objectives and indicators.