



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*National Symposium on the implementation
of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia*

*Interministerial Round-Table:
Integration of the landscape into policies*

*Tbilisi, Georgia
9-10 March 2018*

OPENING SESSION

WELCOMING SPEECH

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS

Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe I would like to express our great pleasure at being in Georgia at the National Symposium for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and would particularly like to convey our appreciation that you have hosted this event in the historical city of Tbilisi.

We extend our thanks to:

- Mr Levan Kharatishvili, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport of Georgia;
- Ms Irma Kavtaradze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;

- Mrs Rusudan Mirzikashvili, Head of Cultural Heritage Department of the Ministry of Culture and Sport;
- Ms Nino Gventsadze, Head of the Spatial Planning and Construction Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- Mrs Marina Tumanishvili, Chief Specialist, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia,

for their highly appreciated co-operation in the organisation of this event.

I am also very grateful that the Representatives from Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia and Serbia have been able to join this meeting which is intended to implement the provisions of the Convention on “Mutual assistance and exchange of information” for the establishment of landscape policies.

Georgia ratified the convention on 15 September 2010 and we appreciate very much the work in process for its implementation.

To date, 39 Council of Europe member States have ratified the convention and two States have signed it. Moreover, in August this year, the Convention will be opened for signature to non-European States.

The Parties to the convention indicated their wish to establish a new instrument dedicated to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, considering that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere, in everyday areas as in areas of outstanding beauty. The convention applies not only to the countryside but also to urban areas; not only to areas of high quality, but also to degraded ones. The Parties acknowledge that the quality and diversity of landscapes constitute a shared resource and it is vital to contribute to its protection, management and planning.

Landscape has indeed an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields and constitutes a resource that can promote economic activity and contribute to job creation.

It is therefore important to establish strategies, policy documents and regulations to ensure that the landscape dimension is taken into account; it is important to adopt legal and financial instruments, and to develop new forms of co-ordination, both horizontal and vertical.

This Symposium intends to provide the opportunity to learn more about experiences of States Parties in promoting landscape policies.

Thank you for your attention.