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**EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
- Florence Convention -**

***CONFERENCE
ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

on the occasion of its entry into force

*Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
17 June 2004
Room*

**CONCLUSIONS OF
INFORMATION SEMINARS ON THE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION:
– ARMENIA
– RUSSIAN FEDERATION
– ROMANIA**

Document by the Secretariat General prepared by the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division



**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA
23-24 OCTOBER 2003 ON
“SPATIAL PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE”**

The participants in the information Seminar particularly wish to thank the Armenian Ministry of Urban Development for taking the initiative of co-organising with the Council of Europe a Seminar on Spatial planning and landscape.

The following conclusions were reached at the seminar.

1. Armenia is a country with an exceptionally rich heritage. Wide valleys, plateaux, mountains, ravines and gorges alternate with lakes and rivers over an area of 29,800 square kilometres. This dramatic and extremely beautiful scenery is brought to life by the rich biodiversity of the natural environment, the setting of an inestimable historical and cultural heritage.

The intangible heritage of customs, traditions, age-old knowledge and know-how has also contributed to shaping a unique landscape.

2. Being a country in transition, Armenia still has to cope with economic difficulties, resulting in a form of territorial development that must be controlled and monitored in order not to jeopardise this heritage.

It is therefore necessary to take care to avoid any disappearance of, or damage to, parts of the national heritage as well as any alteration of the landscape that would result in it being degraded or even losing its distinctive character.

3. Having signed the European Landscape Convention, the Armenian Government have expressed their intention to comply with its principles and ratify it soon.

4. It will therefore be necessary to ensure that all the provisions are introduced that will help to ensure the Convention's proper implementation as regards both the distribution of responsibilities and the legal, scientific and technical aspects (Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the Convention).

5. The Convention provides in particular that each State Party shall undertake to include the landscape in regional planning policies. This approach could be facilitated through the work of the Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT). The landscape is to be seen in a wider territorial development context.

At its last session, the Ministerial Conference adopted, on 17 September 2003, the Ljubljana Declaration on the territorial dimension of the sustainable development of the European continent. It details the numerous challenges shaping our future in Europe, including the transformation and disappearance of landscapes, and provides that states will in future have to submit reports (based on indicators) on how they implement the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent.

In this connection, various countries have drawn up national regional planning strategies. Such a step could be taken in Armenia, which would thus make it easier to establish a national umbrella instrument to give landscape policies a stronger basis. This strategy could be accompanied by the passing or appropriate implementation of the necessary legislation.

It should be remembered that the landscape is one of the key aspects of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 on the Council of Europe's Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development (GPSSDEC-CEMAT).

The Recommendation underlines the importance of three methodological principles that need to be highlighted with respect to the European Landscape Convention:

- horizontal co-operation: it is necessary to encourage interministerial co-operation on the landscape and to set up, for example, a national landscape council;
- vertical co-operation: co-operation needs to be encouraged between national, regional and local levels;
- public participation: the European Landscape Convention underlines the importance of such participation and explicitly refers to the Aarhus Convention;
- the partnership of associations and NGOs.

Land must henceforth be seen as a limited and precious asset that must be developed with care and moderation, ie used sparingly instead of being developed in a detrimental manner.

Assets (biological diversity, cultural heritage, intangible assets) must henceforth be seen as an opportunity, as a source of enrichment and as a factor and driving force for development.

A few key phrases used at the seminar should be called to mind: appointment of development officials; establishment of links with grass roots organisations, professional bodies and administrative authorities; contractual and consensual approach; taking account of the mythical and mystical value of specific sites; role of the collective imagination.

Moreover, on a more practical level, concrete action needs to be pursued at certain pilot sites (Lake Savan, the river Hrazdan and the Yerevan master plan were mentioned in this connection), perhaps through the CEMAT regions of innovation project. The European Rural Heritage Observation Guide also needs to be adapted to the situation in Armenia.

Finally, it is necessary to implement the provisions of the Ljubljana Declaration, which:

- calls on the European Union and the Council of Europe to enhance their co-operation on territorial development; and
- asks the European Commission to define tools that, on the basis of the experience of the Interreg, Phare, Tacis, Cards and Meda programmes, would facilitate co-operation between European and neighbouring countries in the field of spatial development in order to prevent divisions caused by unbalanced development

6. Finally, the exhibition on the landscape seen through the eyes of children in Armenia – a pilot scheme developed in Armenia in connection with the implementation of Article 6 of the European Landscape Convention – should be presented at the 2nd meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention to be held in Strasbourg on 27 and 28 November 2003.



**CONCLUSIONS AND DECLARATION OF INTENT
OF THE SEMINAR HELD IN MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
26-27 APRIL 2004 ON
“SPATIAL PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE”**

The participants at the Seminar on “Spatial Planning and Landscape” held in Moscow on 26 and 27 April 2004 agree that:

- I. The principles of the European Landscape Convention help to:
 1. identify landscape as an object of planning activity;
 2. acknowledge the concept of landscape in Russian legal, geographic, urban-planning, social, environmental and cultural practice;
- II. Landscape in a unit of measurement of local, regional and national identity and thus is an object of spatial planning;
- III. Sustainable landscape in an essential basis for sustainable development;
- IV. The European Landscape Convention does not go against the international obligations of Russian Federation (Article 12 of the Convention);
- V. The European Landscape Convention is one of the essential components of implementing the Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to the Members States on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable development of the European Landscape Continent (GPSSDEC-CEMAT);
- VI. The European Landscape Convention should be understood both as a platform and as an instrument of international cooperation in:
 1. the care of the human environment at the continental scale;
 2. protection, management and planning of the natural and cultural heritage;
 3. recognising the value of the diversity and unique properties of every locality, regions and States;

The participants commit themselves to supporting, signing and ratifying the European Landscape Convention by all European states, including the Russian federation.

**TULCEA DECLARATION, ROMANIA
SEMINAR HELD ON 7 MAY 2004 ON
“SUSTAINABLE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION”**

Over 80 participants from Austria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Morocco, Moldova, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland were gathered at the Information Seminar on “Sustainable Spatial Development and the European Landscape Convention”, which was organised in Tulcea (Romania) on 6 and 7 May 2004 under the auspices of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism of Romania.

I. With regard to implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Romania,

taking account of the inestimable value of Romania’s landscapes and the key role they play in the well-being of the population and promoting sustainable tourism that shows due regard for the cultural and natural heritage, the participants:

1. welcome the shared determination shown by the representatives of three Romanian ministries – Transport, Construction and Tourism, Culture and Religion, and Environment and Water Management – to co-operate in implementing the European Landscape Convention, which Romania ratified on 7 November 2002;
2. underline the importance of implementing without delay a national Strategy for the European Landscape Convention, initially geared to:
 - legal recognition of landscape;
 - the establishment and implementation of landscape policies;
 - the establishment of procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities;
 - the integration of landscape into spatial and urban planning and cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape;
 - the incorporation in spatial and urban planning policies of historical, geological and geomorphologic data and the cultural and natural heritage;
3. believe it is necessary:
 - to include the issue of landscape in Romanian education and training programmes and to involve the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth in implementing the European Landscape Convention;
 - to use the media to raise public awareness and launch an information campaign on landscape;
 - to collect examples of best practice that can be followed elsewhere;

4. highlight the importance of promoting both horizontal, interdepartmental and interdisciplinary co-operation and also vertical co-operation between national, regional and local authorities;
5. call for the dissemination among the key players in Romania of the “Guide to the effects of the European Landscape Convention on spatial and town planning” and the “European Rural Heritage Observation Guide – CEMAT”, both of which have been published in Romanian in 2004, and Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (GPSSDEC-CEMAT) to be disseminated among the key players in Romania;
6. call for the organisation of national Workshops on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention involving landscape experts, architects, engineers, geographers, museologists, academics, local authorities and non-governmental organisations, as well as a national Forum of cultural and natural heritage players.

II. With regard to the landscape of the Danube delta,

the participants:

1. reiterate the importance of the Agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection of Romania and the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine on the cooperation in the zone of the Danube Delta and Lower River Prut nature-protected areas, prepared under the auspices of the Council of Europe and signed in Bucharest on 5 June 2000, which specifically refers to landscape;
2. take note of the current situation in the Danube delta, which, according to the report by UNESCO- MAB mission and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, seems to be critical, and call for it to be carefully studied through an impact survey;
3. believe that, as the three countries concerned – Moldova, Romania and Ukraine – have now ratified the European Landscape Convention, Article 9 on transfrontier landscapes should be implemented through a joint programme for enhancing the landscape of the Danube delta.

III. With regard to European co-operation,

the participants hope that international partnerships, studies and projects can be developed under the European Landscape Convention, which is a platform for co-operation.