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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

– Florence Convention –

JOINT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE (CDPAT) AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY (CO-DBP)

*Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
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Room 1*

Draft of the

RULES GOVERNING THE LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

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

Provision is made in Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 20 October 2000), for a Council of Europe Landscape Award (“the Award”).

1. AIM

a. The Award rewards a policy or measures implemented by local and regional authorities or non-governmental organisations for the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. It reflects the wish of the Parties to the Convention (“the Parties”) to reward exemplary practical initiatives in favour of landscape quality in their territories.

b. The Award is in line with the Council of Europe’s work in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It emphasises the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve people’s environment and quality of life.

c. The Award is the culmination of a vast process of implementation of the Convention at the national and transnational levels to give encouragement and recognition to landscapes of quality. Amongst other things, it helps to make people more aware of the importance of quality landscapes and of the various threats that may hang over them. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

2. QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

a. The Award is attributed in two categories: “Local or regional authorities” and “Non-governmental organisations”.

b. Any natural person, public or private legal entity may apply.

c. Local or regional authorities in more than one contracting Party (or their groupings) working in favour of a cross-border landscape may also apply, provided that they manage the landscape jointly.

3. PROCEDURES

The procedure is in two stages:

Stage 1: National level

a. Selection of candidates at national level

Each Party selects at national level the candidates it wishes to nominate for the Award.

The candidatures may be the result of “National landscape competitions”, for example, organised by each Party at the national level and judged according to the criteria set out in the Appendix to these Rules.

b. Presentation of candidatures to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe

Each Party may submit two candidatures to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe in each of the categories mentioned above. The application, in French or in English, should include:

- a biography of the candidate if the latter is a natural person, or a description of the organisation if it is a legal entity (not more than 3 pages);
- a detailed, illustrated presentation of the policy or measures implemented for the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned, and an evaluation of the results achieved (maximum length 20 pages, to which appendices may be added).

The documents will be submitted on a computer diskette and on paper. Files that are incomplete or that do not not respect the rules, will not be taken into consideration.

The Award is given every two years from 2006on. The registration forms must be sent to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe at the latest by 30 May of the Award year.

Stage 2: European level

a. Setting up a jury

An international jury is formed, composed of seven members appointed in a personal and honorific capacity by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Appointed for the Award year, it shall include:

- one member of each of the committees of experts responsible for monitoring the Convention, appointed by the committees concerned [CO-DBP and CDPAT];
- one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress;
- one representative of a non-governmental organisation, proposed by the Restricted Committee of experts of the European Landscape Convention;
- three eminent authorities on heritage and landscape quality, proposed by the restricted Committee of experts of the European Landscape Convention.

Every Award year, the Jury will be chaired by the chair of the restricted Committee of experts of the European Landscape Convention.

b. Deliberation and selection of Award winners

The jury shall select the award winners by an absolute majority vote for the first two note rounds and by a relative majority for the following vote rounds, based on the criteria set out in the Appendix to these Rules, stating the reasons for its choice.

One special mention by category may also be awarded.

The jury's decision is final.

c. Presentation of the Award by the Committee of Ministers

The Committee of Ministers shall present winners of the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention Award, mentioning the reasons for the Award and the year.

d. Attendance at the meeting of the Select Committee of Experts on the European Landscape Convention

If the budgetary possibilities of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of Europe allowi it, Award winners shall be invited to attend the meeting of the Select Committee of Experts on the European Landscape Convention in order to express their commitment and present their experience.

4. PROMOTION

- a. Each Party is invited to advertise the criteria set out in these Rules and to have the Rules translated into its national language(s).
- b. Each Party and the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe shall encourage media coverage of the Award in order to publicise its existence.

FREQUENCY

The Award in each category shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his representative at a public ceremony every two years, from 2006 on, on 20 October, the date on which the Convention was opened for signature.

6. REVISION OF THE RULES

These Rules shall be revised every 5 years if necessary, from its adoption.

APPENDIX

CRITERIA FOR THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

The local and regional authorities and their groupings and the non-governmental organisations referred to in Article 11 Para. 1 of the Convention are invited to submit two candidatures by category for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for a policy or measures for the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes that meet the following four criteria.

CRITERION No. 1 – SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should:

- be part of a sustainable territorial development policy designed to achieve their harmonious integration into the physical organisation of the land;
- demonstrate their environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability.

CRITERION No. 2 – EXEMPLARITY

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should set an example and counter any disfigurement, impoverishment or deterioration of the landscape concerned.

CRITERION No. 3 – PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should enable a majority of residents in the area concerned to have a decisive say in their own future.

1. Awareness

The local population should be made aware of:

- the importance of their commitment;
- the general need to protect landscape quality;
- the fact that they have rights and responsibilities in respect of the landscape concerned.

2. Participation

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should involve close public co-operation (local residents and other actors), who should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways:

- through dialogue and exchanges between social actors (public meetings, debates, procedures for consultation and participation in the field, for example);
- via procedures for public participation and involvement in the landscape policies set in place by the national, regional or local authorities.

CRITERION No. 4 – INNOVATIVE OF FORWARD LOOKING INSTRUMENTS

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should be based on innovative or forward-looking instruments.