



Strasbourg, 6 March 2007

T- FLOR (2007) 11 rev.

*(Document to be examined by the participants at the Conference and
then transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption)*

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION – Florence Convention –

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON “THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION”

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
22-23 March 2007

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

*Secretariat General document prepared by the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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

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

“Article 11 – Landscape award of the Council of Europe

1 The Landscape award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.

2 Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

3 On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4 The granting of the Landscape award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned.”

* * *

1. AIM

a. The Award is an honorary distinction which 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 and landscape training and education which promote the achievement of high 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 landscape quality in their lives and of the various threats and opportunities that face them. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

d. The Award is attributed in three categories: “protection”, “management” and “planning”, for an achievement over the past three years.

2. QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

- a. “Local or regional authorities” (or their groupings) or “non-governmental organisations” may be candidates, singly or in partnership.
- b. 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 protect, manage and/or plan the landscape jointly.

3. PROCEDURE

The procedure consists of two stages:

Stage 1: Presentation of candidatures to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe

Applications must be submitted by the Parties. They may be the result of a competition organised by each Party taking into account the Award criteria appended to these rules.

Each Party may submit one candidate in each category to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe in each of the categories mentioned above.

The application, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), should include:

- a presentation of the candidate(s) (no more than 3 typed pages);
- a presentation of the policy or measures implemented for the lasting protection, management and/or planning of the landscape, which have demonstrated their lasting effects and can thus serve as an example (no more than 5 typed pages, to which appendices may be added, submitted on CD-ROM in PDF format).

Files that are incomplete or do not respect the rules, will not be taken into consideration.

The Award is given every two years, from 2008 on. The registration forms must be sent to the Secretariat 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;
- one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress;
- one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;
- three eminent authorities on landscape, appointed by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

Every Award year the Award jury will be chaired by a person appointed by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

b. Deliberation and selection of Award winners

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

One special mention per category may also be awarded.

The jury's decision is final.

c. Presentation of the Award

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

The Awards shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative.

Awards will be presented in each of the three categories every two years from 2008 onwards, at a public ceremony, if possible on 20 October, the date on which the Convention was opened for signature.

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 of the Council of Europe shall encourage media coverage of the Award in order to publicise its existence.

5. REVISION OF THE RULES

These Rules shall be revised every 5 years if necessary.

Appendix

Criteria for the allocation of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention

CRITERION 1 – SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

The policy or measures implemented should clearly be working towards the achievement of sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned and:

- 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;
- counter any degradation, impoverishment or deterioration of the landscape.

CRITERION 2 – EXEMPLARY VALUE

The policy or measures implemented that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes should set an example of good practices for others to follow.

CRITERION 3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public (local population and other players) and should clearly reflect people's aspirations for their landscapes; the public 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.