



Strasbourg, 21 April 2011

CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 15E

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

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6th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
- Room 5 -
3-4 May 2011

INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT TO DRAFT A GLOBAL CONVENTION ON LANDSCAPE

*Secretariat document
Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The Conference is invited to discuss on the following draft resolution.

Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention – Strasbourg, 3-4 May 2011

Draft resolution on the UNESCO document 186 EX/21 “*Preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on landscape*”

Having examined document 186 EX/21 of the UNESCO “*Preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on landscape*” the members of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention are extremely proud that the European Landscape Convention [*European Treaty Series of the Council of Europe, No 176*] inspires worldwide projects.

From the experience of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, it is possible to identify key criteria that would establish an international instrument on landscape that could prolong and strengthen the European Landscape Convention.

The first criterion is that “good governance” of everyday landscapes meets the aspirations of the people who legitimately wish to participate in the design and implementation of landscape policies. Thus, the landscape would be considered as a social process, aimed primarily at producing a resource as an individual and social well-being. This criterion would contribute significantly to the development of democracy.

The second criterion is to avoid seeking only a normative instrument. The parties to the European Landscape Convention do not think it appropriate to provide an international regulation on landscapes. However, they are interested in an instrument able to raise the collective intelligence of the States for a better management of everyday landscapes, wherever people live. And people live everywhere!

The third criterion is to establish guidelines based on shared ideas and ideals and not on technical or legal arguments. At our Pan-European level, our common culture, history and raise geography have helped us to formulate precise definitions and strong principles based on peace, democracy and human rights in the European Landscape Convention.

These ideas and ideals are also those of UNESCO. Moreover, the opinion of the members of the conference is that it seems quite possible and desirable to base them in a first instance within a frame of an umbrella convention. This umbrella convention would allow each Region of the world, to develop conventions on these core values, taking into account the diversity of cultures, histories and geographies. The European Landscape Convention would be a positive example of application of this umbrella convention.

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