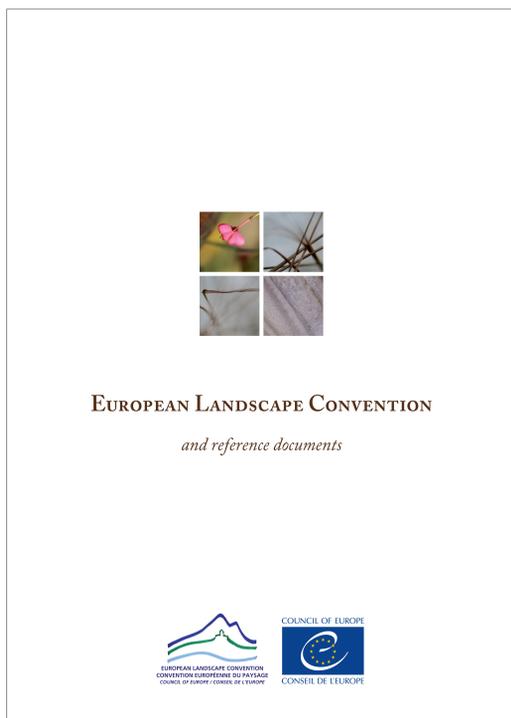


# European Landscape Convention The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe



Adopted in Strasbourg by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000, the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) was opened for signature by the Organisation's member States in Florence on 20 October of that year. As the first international treaty devoted exclusively to all aspects of landscape, it addresses the Council of Europe's key challenges in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Council of Europe member States signatories to the Convention have declared themselves concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment, and emphasised that the landscape:

*"... has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;*

*... contributes to the formation of local cultures and ... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being. . . ;*

*... is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;*

*... is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone."*

Preamble of the European Landscape Convention



The Landscape Award, set up by the European Landscape Convention, recognises exceptional achievements presented by the States' Parties to the Convention and makes people aware of the importance of landscape. The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe gathers these achievements, showing that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people's surroundings.

*"Whether urban or rural, landscape has an unquantifiable bearing on the quality of life. It is not only areas of outstanding beauty that require our attention, but also the rich variety of settings in which we live, many of which have been undergoing rapid change.*

*The Council of Europe Landscape Award, which is open to the Parties to the European Landscape Convention, is intended to raise awareness among the civil society of the value of this living environment. Its objective is to acknowledge practical and exemplary achievements as sources of inspiration.*

*Through their participative and innovative approach, the people behind these achievements have demonstrated that landscape matters in the pursuit of human dignity.*

*I am happy that the Council of Europe is able to recognise their work."*

Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe