

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 24 April 2017

CDCPP(2017)9Add.
Item 5.3 of the agenda

STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

ACTIVITIES OF
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
2017

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

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Summary

The Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention is aimed at: 1. Monitoring implementation of the Convention; 2. Fostering international co-operation; 3. Collecting examples of good practice; 4. Promoting knowledge and research for policy development; 5. Increasing awareness-raising; and 6. Enabling access to information.

1. Monitoring the implementation of the Convention

Committee of Experts set up under the Council of Europe's Statute

The Convention provides that existing competent committees of experts, set up under the Council of Europe's Statute, shall be designated by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to be responsible for monitoring its implementation (Article 10). Since 2012, the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) has been entrusted with the implementation of the Convention. It examines in particular the results of the work of the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe forwards a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers.

Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention

Held since 2001 and mentioned in the terms of reference of the CDCPP, the biennial Council of Europe [Conferences](#) on the European Landscape Convention enable progress to be made on implementing its Chapter II (National Measures) and III (European Co-operation). They aim, in synergy with CDCPP, to exchange information on the way in which Parties to the Convention are implementing it, to monitor progress, to report to parties on work done in the framework of the Convention, to make proposals for a more effective implementation of the Convention, and to discuss and adopt its strategic lines and programme of activities, following Article 8 of the Convention on "Mutual assistance and exchange of information".

Landscape Observatory: the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary

The [Council of Europe Information System on the European Landscape Convention](#) allows for online access to information about the policies developed in order to implement the European Landscape Convention at national and regional level. The [Glossary](#) clarifies certain terms used. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2013\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe invites States Parties to the Convention to make use of this Information System and its Glossary in the context of their co-operation, to work together on developing it further, and to continue to exchange information on all the matters covered by the provisions of the Convention, in order to promote an awareness of landscapes and the policies relating to them.

Legal and technical expertise

Legal and technical expertise is provided to States wishing to sign/ratify/accede or implement the European Landscape Convention. Meetings concerning one or more States are also organised at national, regional or local level ([Seminars](#)).

2. Fostering international co-operation

The Council of Europe organises this co-operation through the Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and other meetings organised at national, regional or local level.

Council of Europe Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

Organised by the Council of Europe on a regular basis since 2002, the Meetings of the [Workshops](#) for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention are intended to deepen certain issues of the Convention. A genuine forum for sharing practice and ideas, the Meetings are also an opportunity to present new concepts and achievements under the Convention. Special emphasis is given to the experiences of the state hosting the meeting.

Transfrontier co-operation

The Convention states that the Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation at a local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes (Article 9). The work carried out supports the application of this provision.

International co-operation

The European Landscape Convention provides that the contracting parties undertake to co-operate internationally in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes (Article 8). Considering that the Convention promotes a synergy between the themes of sustainable development (environmental, social, economic and cultural), democracy, human rights and the rule of law, particular attention is paid to its contribution to world debates on Sustainable Development (United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development) and Habitat.

Working Groups on the European Landscape Convention

The [Working groups](#) aim to prepare draft recommendations or resolutions to the attention of the Committee of Ministers.

3. Collecting examples of good practice: the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Sessions of the Council of Europe Landscape Award:

The Convention provides for a "Council of Europe Landscape Award" (Article 11). It recognises a policy implemented or measures to be taken by local and regional authorities or non-governmental organisations to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape which have proved effective in the long term and can thus serve as an example to other authorities in Europe. The Sessions of the Landscape Award are organised according to the Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe Landscape Award Forums of National Selections

Organised by the Council of Europe on a regular basis since 2012, the Council of Europe Landscape Award Forums of National Selections ([Workshops](#) for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention) allow presenting the national selections for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Ceremony of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is held on this occasion.

Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance>

The [Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe](#) gathers the exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention. They show that it is possible to promote the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people's surroundings.

4. Promoting knowledge and research for policy development

Thematic exploratory reports on issues related to the European Landscape Convention are drawn up by Council of Europe experts and submitted to the relevant committees of experts. They aim to analyse different aspects of the implementation of the Convention that may permit draft recommendations to be prepared.

5. Increasing awareness-raising

Promotion of exhibitions, landscape events, publications and films.

6. Enabling access to information

European Landscape Convention Website:

<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the activities of the European Landscape Convention carried out in 2017 in accordance with the Work Programme and Action Plan for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention 2017-2019, as adopted by the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention on 24 March 2017 (Appendix 10 to the [Report: CEP-CDCPP \(2017\) 19E](#));
- decide on the composition of the Working Group of the European Landscape Convention "Rights and responsibilities for everyone" and designate its Members as mentioned in the note below.

Note: Considering that the Conceptual Report for reference on "Landscape and the European Landscape Convention's contribution to democracy, human rights and sustainable development" ([CEP-CDCPP \(2017\) 5E rev.](#)) deals with human rights, the Working Group will focus on the concept of responsibility from an ethical perspective. It will identify the main actors of the landscape, as well as tools to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape.

Activities will start in autumn 2017 and will continue in 2018. The Working Group will be composed of five government representatives and two representatives of non-governmental organisations.

1. Monitoring the implementation of the Convention

Committee of Experts set up under the Council of Europe's Statute

- Part "Landscape" of the 6th Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 10-12 May 2017), and of the meetings of its Bureau (Strasbourg, 7-8 March and other dates to be confirmed 2017):

. Presentation of the Report of the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 23-24 March 2017);

. Presentation of the draft Recommendation on the Convention's contribution to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development and Conceptual Report for reference on "Landscape and the European Landscape Convention's contribution to democracy, human rights and sustainable development";

. Presentation of the draft Resolution on "The Council of Europe Landscape Alliance of the European Landscape Convention";

. Presentation of the decisions of the International Jury of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 4-5 April 2017).

Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention

- Organisation of the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention under the auspices of the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 23-24 March 2017).

Landscape Observatory: the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary

- Development of Phase 3 of the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention Information System on the website (according to the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States CM/Rec(2013)4).

National/Regional Meetings and legal and technical expertise

- Promotion of meetings on mutual exchange and information;
- Legal and institutional assistance (establishment of landscape centres or observatories).

2. Fostering international co-operation

Council of Europe Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- Organisation of the 19th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention under the auspices of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, *"The implementation of the European Landscape Convention at local level: local democracy"*, Brno, Czech Republic, 5-7 September 2017;
- Preparation of the 21st Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *"The implementation of the European Landscape Convention: education"*, Calabria, Italia, 3-5 October 2018;
- Preparation of the 22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *"Implementation of the*

European Landscape Convention: water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change", Seville, Spain, 2019.

Transfrontier co-operation

- Follow-up of the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on transfrontier landscapes;
- Promotion of transfrontier co-operation: meetings and projects.

International co-operation

- Launching of the International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe on 20 October;
- Promotion of the consideration of the landscape dimension of sectorial policies of the European Union (Policies of Agriculture, of Research) and other international policies and programmes;
- Contribution to global debates on sustainable development and habitat.

Working Groups on the European Landscape Convention

- Establishment of a Working Group of the European Landscape Convention "Rights and responsibilities for everyone" supported by expertise (draft conceptual report and draft recommendation for the attention of the CDCPP and the Committee of Ministers).
3. Collecting examples of good practice: the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Sessions of the Council of Europe Landscape Award

- Organisation of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2016-2017) and preparation of the files;
- Organisation of the Meeting of the International Jury of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe 2016-2017 (Strasbourg, 4-5 April 2017);
- Preparation of the publication of the Council of Europe Landscape Award with the Projects of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe 2016-2017;
- Organisation of an Exhibition on the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, on the occasion of the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Strasbourg, 23-24 March 2017, and on the occasion of other events;
- Launching of the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2018-2019).

Council of Europe Landscape Award Forums of National Selections

- Preparation of the 20th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "Forum of the national selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award – Session 2016-2017", June 2018.

Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

- Development of the Council of Europe Landscape Alliance of the European Landscape Convention with the projects of the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2016-2017);
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance>.
- 4. Promoting knowledge and research for policy development
 - Publication of *"Landscape Dimensions"*, Council of Europe Publishing;
 - Analysis and promotion of certain experiments showing the scope covered by the Convention: examples of landscapes considered to be emblematic or outstanding (and which can be protected as such), which also gave rise to management and planning actions; examples where the landscape could serve as a key input for the definition of a territory project, not only including protected areas;
 - Preparation of ELC Reports and proposals on *"Landscape of rural areas: general (agriculture, rural development, forestry), and specific thematic (drystone walls and terraces, hedges...)"*;
 - Preparation of ELC Reports and proposals on *"Integration of landscape into policies and thematic: urbanism, architecture, urban green spaces, health and leisure (eg., walking)..."*.
- 5. Increasing awareness-raising
 - Exhibition on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention under the auspices of the Cypriot Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 23-24 March 2017).
 - Preparation of leaflets on the Convention and the Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers;
 - Promotion of events on the landscape: Summer Universities, International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe on 20 October...
- 6. Enabling access to information
 - Update of the European Landscape Convention website
<http://www.coe.int/europeanlandscapeconvention>;
 - Publication of the proceedings of the 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *"National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities"*, Yerevan, Armenia, 5-6 October 2016;
 - Dissemination of the proceedings of the 17th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on *"Forum of the national selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award – Session 2014-2015"*, Budapest, Hungary, 8-10 June 2016;
 - Dissemination of the Proceedings of the 16th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *"Landscape and transfrontier co-operation"*, Andorra la Vella, Principality of Andorra, 1-2 October 2015;
 - Dissemination of the proceedings of the 15th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *"Sustainable landscapes and economy: on the inestimable natural and human value of the landscape"*, Urgup, Nevşehir, Turkey, 1-2 October 2014;
 - Publication *"Landscape and Education"*;
 - Dissemination and translation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;

- Dissemination and translations of the Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe;
- Dissemination (and possible translation into other languages) of the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member States: CM/Rec(2014)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education, and CM/Rec(2015)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary schools;
- Dissemination of the magazine *Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory*.