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COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

11th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Presidency of Hungary
of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
26-27 May 2021
Online meeting [Room 9]

Opening speech

*Mr István NAGY,
Minister of Agriculture, Hungary*

[Video](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Hungarian representative at the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, I would like to extend my welcome to the participants of the 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention. Hungary is committed to the implementation of the Convention, and it is our pleasure to include the conference in the programme of the Presidency of the Committee of the Ministers of the Council of Europe. The pandemic has cast a shadow on our delight since we can meet online only; but we are confident that this Conference will foster the implementation of the Convention, which is effective globally as of July.

It is my pleasure to share with you some of the achievements of my country, which we have accomplished in the wake of the previous conference.

The Government Report of 2020 discusses the accomplishments of the first three years of the Hungarian National Landscape Strategy adopted in 2017. It was our pleasure to experience the proactivity of the participating national institutions and to discuss the positive results. Spatial data,

registry improvement, as well as awareness-raising, were especially effective. New dimensions may be opened concerning landscape conservation, management and planning; also, Hungary's National Ecosystem Map has been published in 2019, which demonstrates that the conservation of the unique image and emblematic locations of the national landscape are of equal importance for national assessment, decision-making, and implementation.

According to the experiences gained during the pandemic in 2021, the application scheme of the Hungarian Landscape Award recognising outstanding landscape usage has been modified. The conditions of the application remain unchanged, but the deadline has been extended allowing applicants to submit their documents continuously. We are confident that the national winner of 2022 will be equally successful in the international competition for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

Last but not least, it is my pleasure to announce that we have concluded nation-wide research started in 2017 on the Hungarian landscape character. The research aimed to make our landscape character tangible to preserve the favourable landscape character during an intervention. The mission of the research is to provide tools for stakeholders in the spirit of the Convention. We have reached a milestone in the implementation of the Convention with the analysis methodology of national landscape character, as well as with the establishment of the Landscape Database.

Indeed, landscape is more than just the sum of topography, flora, waters and settlement. Landscape is our space, moulder of our lives inspiring our thoughts and shaping our sensations. Wherever we may live, landscape determines the quality of our lives and our identities.

It is our common responsibility that human action shapes the landscape, as well as the wellbeing of the individual and society favourably with regard to the future generations.

I wish that we all find the means to implement the general and individual measures of the Convention in accordance with our public service systems.

I wish you a successful Conference and every success in your work.

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