



HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY
Council of Europe
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PRÉSIDENCE HONGROISE
Conseil de l'Europe
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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 Harry Alex RUSZ,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Chair of the Ministers' Deputies, Permanent
Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe*

Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

The Hungarian Government was pleased to include this 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention among the events of its chairmanship.

The environmental emergency, and especially climate change as great threats to human rights in our age, have prompted the Hungarian Government to include the protection of the environment within the priority areas of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

In the next six months the Hungarian Presidency will be promoting the existing instruments of the Council of Europe in this field and will follow closely the intergovernmental work being carried out in the field of human rights and the environment and on the environment and criminal law.

The questions of landscape and environment in general are strongly linked and intertwined with the Hungarian Presidency's other matters of priority as well especially the one concerning "next generations" that is children's rights and youth.

The Hungarian Presidency also aims to promote synergies between the efforts of the different institutions and bodies of the Organisation on the issue of environment and human rights, in particular with the Parliamentary Assembly for whom this issue is also a political priority.

The European Landscape Convention is one of the existing tools of the Organisation in the field of environment. When we deal with landscape, we are dealing with human beings in their living space, considering its social, environmental, cultural and economic dimensions. When dealing with landscape, it is about human rights and duties, democracy and the rule of law.

As the States Parties to the Convention have expressed are committed to “achieve sustainable development”, the work on the implementation of the Convention is also in line with the objectives of sustainable development, as set out by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The work developed within the framework of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention concerns highly topical issues, and is proving to be pioneering, already of interest to many non-European states.

We therefore welcome in July the entry into force of the protocol amending the Convention, which will allow non-European States to join its States Parties.

As a societal issue, the question of landscape is one of the major issues of public debate and public policy. It is therefore up to everyone to take care of it in order to build a common future.

On behalf of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers I would like to wish you a successful conference and once again congratulate Ms Krisztina Kincses for chairing the conference.

I would also like to invite you to visit – unfortunately only online – the fantastic photo exhibition on the wonders of the Hungarian landscape titled “Magical Hungary”, which will be introduced to you later by the Chair of the conference.

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