



HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY
Council of Europe
May – November 2021
PRÉSIDENCE HONGROISE
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai – Novembre 2021



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]

Closing speech

*3.14. Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS,
Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention,
Council of Europe*

This 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, which brought together representatives of 44 States and 22 international non-governmental organisations, has enabled progress to be made in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

Forty States have so far ratified the Convention and one State has signed it. This circle of States may be enlarged after the entry into force of the Protocol amending the Convention on 1 July 2021. The purpose of this Protocol is to promote European co-operation with non-European States wishing to implement the provisions of the Convention ([ETS No. 176](#)) by opening the Convention to their accession.

*

The addresses presented on the occasion of this Conference by the States Parties to the Convention have shown that **public policies in favour of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention are progressing significantly at national, regional and local levels** [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 3Bil.](#)].

The addresses of the other States present at the Conference [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 3Bil.](#)], as well as the statements of the non-governmental organisations [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 4Bil.](#)] were greatly appreciated.

The results of events planned in the framework of the of the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention were examined with interest:

- National Days “*The implementation of the European Landscape Convention in France - Landscapes from here and elsewhere, diverse perspectives on some landscape approaches at different scales, on both sides of borders*”, Strasbourg, France, 26-27 November 2019 [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 10E](#)];
- 23rd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention “*Landscape integration in sectoral policies*”, [Lausanne, Switzerland], 19-20 October 2020 [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 11E](#)];
- 24th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention “*Council of Europe Landscape Award National Selections Forum - 6th Session 2018-2019*”, [Geneva, Switzerland], 21-22 October 2020 [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 12E](#)].

The [International Landscape Observatory of the Council of Europe](#) allows to progress in the knowledge of public landscape policies allowing the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

In accordance with Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states, many Parties to the Convention have prepared a national report – as well as regional reports – on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in the framework of the [Information System of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#). Other Parties to the Convention have been invited to prepare such National (and Regional) Reports.

The [Glossary of the Information System of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#) (Council of Europe publication, Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, 2018, No. 106) was translated in several languages [[Linguistic versions](#)].

The [Information Platform of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe](#) is intended to present: the main themes of the Convention; the synthesis reports on national and regional policies for the implementation of the Convention; and other work carried out for the implementation of the Convention.

We welcome the adoption by this Conference of four **draft Recommendations** to be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) to be held on 18 June 2021 in Strasbourg, in order to submit them for adoption to the Committee of Ministers (Appendix 8 to this report):

- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development*”;

- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Town planning and landscape*”;
- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Landscape and agriculture*”;
- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Landscape integration in sectoral policies*”.

The Conference also took note of the following **reports** prepared in the framework of the Work Programme of the European Landscape Convention:

- Report “*Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development*” [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 5E – PowerPoint Presentation](#)];
- Report “*Urbanisation, town planning and landscape*” [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 6E – PowerPoint Presentation](#)];
- Report “*Urban landscapes and climate change: the contribution of Landscape Architects to improve the quality of life*” [[CEP-CDCPP \(2021\) 7E – PowerPoint Presentation](#)].

*

Transfrontier landscapes were a focus of special attention in the framework of the Information System of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.

*

It can be noted that the achievements presented at sessions of the **Council of Europe Landscape Award** [Sessions 1 (2008-2009), 2 (2010-2011), 3 (2012-2013), 4 (2014-2015), 5 (2016-2017), 6 (2018-2019) – Publications of the “[Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections](#)”: Carbonia, Italy, 4-5 June 2012; Wroclaw, Poland, 11-12 June 2014; Budapest, Hungary, 9-10 June 2016; Daugavpils, Latvia, 19-21 June 2018; ‘Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 October 2020’] are fully consistent with the thrust of the Council of Europe’s work on promoting human rights, democracy and sustainable development.

The [Exhibition on the Landscape Alliance Award of the Council of Europe](#), organised on the occasion of this Conference, has highlighted the potential importance of measures designed to improve the landscape characteristics of people’s living environment. The Resolution on the Council of Europe Landscape Award Alliance aims to raise awareness of the outstanding achievements of the Parties to the Convention in these sessions of the Award.

This work was carried out with the collaboration of Mrs Susan Moller, Mrs Eva Nagy, Mrs Sandrine Marolleau and Ms Emma Leroux of the Council of Europe Secretariat.

*

The Work Programme and Action Plan for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention 2021-2023 (Appendix 10 to this report) will seek to promote recognition of the landscape in law and to ensure that account is taken of the landscape dimension in national and international policies, and that international co-operation is enhanced. The aim is to ensure that compliance with the Convention is monitored, promote international co-operation, gather examples of good practice, promote knowledge and research, raise awareness, and facilitate access to information.

The 25th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention “Landscape Strategies, Action plans and Policy documents for landscape quality”, will be held in Mallorca, Spain, on 6-8 October 2021. The International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe on 20 October 2021 will be dedicated to this theme.

The Council of Europe thus contributes to the global debates on sustainable development conducted within the framework of the United Nations in its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to the Conferences on Habitat. The landscape dimension is now an integral part of the political agenda of many governments.

*

I would like to thank Mr Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe for opening this Conference.

Our thanks go to Mr István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary for his much appreciated speech.

We would like to thank Mr Harry Alex Rusz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe, for placing this Conference under the auspices of the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Thanks to Mr Gergő Kocsis, Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe, for his much appreciated support.

Thank you to Mrs Suzanne Brolly, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of the resilient city and green spaces, for her much appreciated address.

Heartfelt thanks too to Mrs Krisztina Kincses, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, National Representative of the Convention for the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, for the two years in which she has presided over the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.

Here are some wisteria flowers to thank you, in the colour of the representation of Lake Balaton, placed during the Conference on your screen

A warm word of thanks to Mrs Flora van Regteren Altena, Chair of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape of the Council of Europe, Senior policy advisor, Department for Arts and Heritage, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, The Netherlands, for the important and much appreciated contribution she has made to our work.

All our thanks go to Mr Thierry Mathieu, recent President of the Commission on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Issues of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe for the important work achieved during these last years.

Our congratulations to Mr Gerhard Ermischer, President of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe for his recent election, as well as to his representative Mrs Sophie Hüglin, Member of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA).

Thanks are due to all the State representatives who have helped to implement the European Landscape Convention.

I must also thank the non-governmental organisations and civil society actors, who work to ensure that due attention is given to the quality of human environments and the habitats of other species.

I will conclude by offering sincere congratulations to Mr Gilles Rudaz on his election as Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, and to Mrs Jelena Haldnik on her election as Vice-Chair of the Conference.

*