



## EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION 7th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Conference organised under the auspices of the Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

Council of Europe  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
26-27 March 2013



## General activity report on the European Landscape Convention



# The Council of Europe

47 Member States - Strasbourg

Active in promoting:

- Democracy
- Human rights
- Rule of law
- Seeking common solutions to the main problems facing European society today

*“We are committed to improving the quality of life for citizens. The Council of Europe shall therefore, on the basis of the existing instruments, further develop and support integrated policies in the fields of ... landscape, spatial planning ..., in a sustainable development perspective”.*

*Action Plan adopted by Council of Europe Heads of State and Government at their Third Summit, Warsaw, 2005, Section “Promoting sustainable development”*



## *I. Presentation*





## Philosophy

“ 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 and consolidation of the European identity;**

... **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 to the European Landscape Convention, Florence, 20 October 2000*



## Why a Landscape Convention?

The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the *transformation* of landscapes.

The Convention expresses a concern to achieve *sustainable development* based on a *balanced and harmonious relationship* between social needs, economic activity and the environment.

It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy *high quality landscapes*.





## Scope of the Convention

The Preamble says that States wish to provide “a **new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe**”.

It applies to the **entire territory** of the Parties and covers natural, urban and peri-urban areas, whether on land, water or sea.

It concerns not just **remarkable** landscapes but also **ordinary or everyday landscapes and degraded areas**.

Landscape is recognised irrespective of its perceived value, since all forms of landscape are crucial to the **quality of the citizens’ environment** and deserve to be considered in landscape policies.





## Definitions

1. **“Landscape”** means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
2. **“Landscape policy”** means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
3. **“Landscape quality objective”** means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings.
4. **“Landscape protection”** means action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity.
5. **“Landscape management”** means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.
6. **“Landscape planning”** means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.



## Aims of the Convention

1. To promote protection, management and planning of landscapes;
2. To organise European co-operation on landscape issues.





## National measures

The Contracting Parties undertake to implement four general measures on a national level:

1. Legal recognition of landscape as constituting an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
2. Establishment and implementation of landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
3. Establishment of procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies;
4. Integration of landscape into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies, with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.



**The Contracting Parties undertake to implement also five specific measures on a national level:**

**1. Awareness-raising:** increasing awareness among the civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them;

**2. Promotion in training and education:**

- training for specialists in landscape appraisal and landscape operations;
- multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sector and for associations concerned;
- school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values that the landscape has and the issues raised by its protection, management and planning;

**3. Identification and evaluation:** mobilising those concerned in order to reach a better knowledge of landscape, guiding the work of landscape identification and evaluation through exchanges of experience and methodology between the Parties at a European level;

**4. Setting landscape quality objectives:** defining landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation;

**5. Implementation of landscape policies:** introducing policy instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

## International measures

### 1. International policies and programmes

The Parties undertake to co-operate in the consideration of the landscape dimension in international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion of landscape considerations in them.

The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of the Convention, and in particular :

- to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
- to promote the exchange of landscape specialists for training and information purposes;
- to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

### 2. Transfrontier landscapes

Transfrontier landscapes are covered by a specific provision : the Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

### 3. Council of Europe Landscape Award





## *II. Implementation - CoE Action*

**The European Landscape Convention  
came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004**





## ***38 ratifications***

**Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom**

## ***and 2 signatures***

**Iceland, Malta**

## ***other Council of Europe Member States (47)***

**Albania, Austria, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Russian Federation**

## Examples of progress achieved during this period

- the landscape is included in the **political agenda** of governments
- an important **network of cooperation** at international level for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention has been developed
- the **concept of landscape**, as defined by the Convention, is becoming more and more recognised in public policies at **national, regional and local levels** as well as by **populations**
- **new forms of cooperation** are developed between different levels of authorities (national, regional and local) and between ministries or departments of one State or region
- **specific working structures** for landscape (national councils, observatories, centers or landscape institutes) have been created
- specific **laws and regulations** referring to landscape have been developed according to the provisions of the Convention
- States or regions cooperate beyond their borders for **transfrontier** landscapes

- national **landscape awards** referring to the European Landscape Convention have been launched
- **university programmes** have been developed with a reference to the Convention and summer universities on landscape are organised
- **biennales, landscape festivals** and **exhibitions** are organised
- **films** referring to the European Landscape Convention prepared



## Activities conducted by the Council of Europe

The work done to implement the European Landscape Convention is aimed at:

- Monitoring **implementation** of the Convention
- Promoting **European and international co-operation**
- Collecting **examples** of good practice
- Fostering knowledge and research for **landscape policies**
- **Raising awareness**
- Fostering access to **information**



## 1. Monitoring the implementation of the Convention

**Body:** *Council of Europe Conference of the on the European Landscape Convention, 26-27 March 2013*

*Council of Europe Steering Committee for Cultural, Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), 27-29 May 2013*

**Contracting Parties and Signatories States of the European Landscape Convention Member States of the Council of Europe**

- ***Parliamentary Assembly***
- ***Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe***
- ***Conference of international non governmental organisations with participative statute to the Council of Europe***
- ***International governmental organisations***
- ***International and national NGOs***



## **Measures:** Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

General principles are designed to provide guidance on some of the fundamental articles of the European Landscape Convention:

- A. Consider the territory as a whole**
- B. Recognise the fundamental role of knowledge**
- C. Promote awareness**
- D. Define landscape strategies**
- E. Integrate the landscape dimension in territorial policies**
- F. Integrate landscape into sectoral policies**
- G. Make use of public participation**
- H. Achieve landscape quality objectives**



*“Every planning action or project should comply with landscape quality objectives. It should in particular improve landscape quality, or at least not bring about a decline. The effects of projects, whatever their scale, on landscape should therefore be evaluated and rules and instruments corresponding to those effects defined. Each planning action or project should not only match, but also be appropriate to the features of the places.”*

- I. Develop mutual assistance and exchange of information**



***Suggested text for the practical implementation of the European Landscape Convention at national level for use as guidance for public authorities when implementing the European Landscape Convention (Appendix 2 Rec. 2008)***

This guidance document suggests certain regulatory and institutional measures that could be taken at national level to assist in formulating, monitoring and evaluating landscape policies. Each paragraph is directly related to the corresponding provisions of the convention.

Paragraph 1 – Definitions / Paragraph 2 – Scope / Paragraph 3 – General principles 1. Legal recognition of landscapes - 2. Rights and responsibilities - 3. Integrating the landscape dimension - 4. Public participation - 5. Knowledge, awareness raising, education and training - 6. Landscape policy

Paragraph 4 – Division of responsibilities and competences

... **b. The Ministry of ...:**

i. **is responsible** for implementing landscape policy and for interministerial co-ordination in that field;  
ii. organises consultation with civil society and the assessment of landscape policies by an ad hoc body;  
iii. **in collaboration with the other ministries** and with public participation, regularly develops and reviews a **national landscape strategy** laying down the guiding principles of landscape policy and describing the paths taken and the goals pursued in order to protect, manage or plan landscapes. This landscape strategy should be made public.

c. **The ministries whose activities influence landscapes** should liaise with departments responsible for implementing landscape policy in the course of their activities, in keeping with the principles embodied in Paragraph 3, and regularly report on their landscape policy.

d. Regional and local authorities should have **staff familiar with landscape issues** who are capable of implementing landscape policy in their spheres of competence, taking landscapes into account at their respective territorial levels.





**Method:** *Summary descriptive notes on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states*

A document on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states, giving the key facts concerning the landscape of the various Council of Europe member states, is regularly updated and a synthesis of the data is prepared.

**Presentation of landscape policies of the Council of Europe member states:**

- signature/ratification/approval of the Convention
- name and contact details of the correspondent
- definition of the term “landscape” in each national language
- legal organisation (legal definition of the term “landscape”, constitutional or legislative status, regional laws)
- administrative organisation (ministry responsible for landscape, responsibilities, documents, representation at the level of regional and local authorities, specific programmes, education syllabi, communication, awareness-raising or information programmes aimed at the public)



***The data will be incorporated in a Council of Europe Information System on the European Landscape Convention (ELCIS – L6)***

### ***Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3***

**Propose that each party contribute to the setting up of a database to appear on the website of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention. The database would be a "toolbox" which would help provide mutual technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the European Landscape Convention on mutual assistance and exchange of information.**

## 2. Promoting European and international co-operation: Workshops on implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- Organised by the Council of Europe with a Member State of the Council of Europe and other partners on a regular basis since 2002
- Exchange experiences, examining both good and bad practices in the protection, management and planning of the European landscape
- Special emphasis is given to the experiences of the state hosting the meeting.

*Workshops 2002*  
*23-24 May, Strasbourg, France*



- *Landscape policies: the contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development – social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches*
- *Landscape identification, evaluation and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources– Awareness-raising, training and education*
- *Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape*
- *Landscape Award*



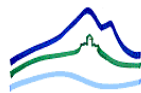
## **Workshops 2003** **27-28 November, Strasbourg, France**

- *Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes*
- *Transfrontier landscapes*
- *Individual and social well-being*
- *Spatial planning and landscape*



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE

## **Workshops 2005** **16-17 June, Cork, Ireland**

**“Landscape for urban, suburban and  
peri-urban areas”**



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE



***Exhibition on “Landscape through  
the eyes of the children of Armenia”***



## Workshops 2006

**11-12 May, Ljubljana, Slovenia, “Landscape and society”**



**28-29 September, Girona, Spain, “Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practice”**



## Workshops 2007

20-21 September, Sibiu, Romania, “Landscape and rural heritage”



## Workshops 2008

25-26 April, Piestany, Slovak Republic, “Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management”



## Workshops 2009

8-9 October, Malmo, Sweden, *“Landscape and driving forces”*

**Swedish National  
Heritage Board**



## Workshops 2010

15-16 April 2010, Cordoba, Spain, *“Landscape and infrastructure for society”*





## Workshops 20-21 October 2011, Evora, Portugal, “Multifunctional landscapes”



Ministério da Agricultura,  
Mar, Ambiente e  
Ordenamento do Território

**DGOTDU**

Direcção-Geral do Ordenamento do Território  
e Desenvolvimento Urbano



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE



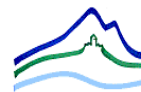
## Workshops 4-5 June 2012, Carbonia (Sardinia), Italy, “Forum of national landscape selections for the Council of Europe Landscape Award”



MINISTERO  
PER I BENI E  
LE ATTIVITÀ  
CULTURALI



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE



Provincia di  
**Carbonia Iglesias**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**Workshops 2-3 October 2012, Thessalonica (Greece), “Vision for the future of Europe on territorial democracy: Landscape as a new strategy for spatial planning. Another way to see the territory involving civil society...”**



*République Hellénique  
Hellenic Republic*



**Workshops 2-3 October 2013, Montenegro, “The future of the territories, landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy”**

## National information Seminars on the European Landscape Convention

- Information Seminar co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan (Armenia), 23-24 October 2003
- Information Seminar organised by the Council of Europe, Moscow (Russia), 26-27 April 2004
- Information Seminar concerning sustainable spatial development and the European Landscape Convention co-organised by the Council of Europe and Romania, Tulcea (Romania), 6-7 May 2004
- Information Seminar co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Republic of Albania, Tirana (Albania), 15-16 December 2005
- Information Seminar on landscape in Andorra co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Principality of Andorra, Andorra la Vella (Andorra), 4-5 June 2007
- Other Information Seminars 2007-2012





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

The Landscape Award recognises a policy implemented or measures 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 territorial authorities in Europe.

The Award thus contributes to the stimulation of those working on a local level and to the encouragement and recognition of exemplary landscape management. It will be conferred by the Committee of Ministers, on proposals from the Committee of Experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

**Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe on 20 February 2008**

**Criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe**

- 1. Sustainable territorial development***
- 2. Exemplary value***
- 3. Public participation***
- 4. Awareness-raising***

## SUBMITTED FILES

1st Session 2008-2009

1. Czech Republic
2. Finland
3. France
4. Hungary
5. Italy
6. Slovenia
7. Spain
8. Turkey



## SUBMITTED FILES

2<sup>nd</sup> Session 2010-2011

1. Belgium
2. Cyprus
3. Czech Republic
4. Finland
5. France
6. Hungary
7. Italy
8. Netherlands
9. Norway
10. Serbia
11. Slovakia
12. Slovenia
13. Spain
14. United Kingdom

## 1st Session 2008-2009

### **Council of Europe 2009 Landscape Award: “The “Parc de la Deûle”, Lille Métropole (France)**



***“The “Parc de la Deûle”, Lille Métropole (France) has received the Council of Europe 2009 Landscape Award. In the framework of the Landscape Convention, a special mention goes to the “Parque de Christina Enea”, San Sebastián (Spain).***

***The Award and the special mention were officially presented by the representative of the Council of Europe Secretary General on the occasion of the 8th Meeting of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Malmö, Sweden, 8-9 October 2009).***

***The granting of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the prize to ensure sustainable protection, management and planning of the landscape areas concerned.”***



**2nd Session 2010-2011**

***Council of Europe 2011 Landscape Award: “The City of Carbonia:  
the Landscape Machine” (Italy)***

*Decisions of the Committee of Ministres of 12 October 2011 and  
Ceremony of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe  
on 20 October 2011*

# **Italy**

# **Landscape Award 2011**

*City of Carbonia*

## **SUBMITTED FILES** **3rd Session 2012-2013**

1. Belgium
2. Czech Republic
3. Finland
4. France
5. Hungary
6. Ireland
7. Italy
8. Latvia
9. Lithuania
10. the Netherlands
11. Poland
12. Portugal
13. Romania
14. Serbia
15. Slovakia
16. Slovenia
17. Spain
18. United Kingdom

An international jury being set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention will meet on May 2013 in order to examine the applications and propose the award and possible special mentions

At its 2nd Meeting (Strasbourg, 27-29 May 2013) the CDCPP will examine the proposals of the jury and forward its proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers

In the light of the proposals of the CDCPP, the Committee of Ministers shall grant the award and any special mentions.

## 4. Fostering knowledge and research for landscape policies

*“Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the ELC”*

- Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes;
  - Transfrontier landscapes;
  - Education; Individual and social well-being;
- Spatial planning and landscape**  
*CoE Publishing, 2006*

Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention



*Landscape and sustainable development:  
challenges of the European  
Landscape Convention*

## ***“Landscape facets: reflections and proposals for the implementation of the ELC”***

- Landscape, town, peri-urban and sub-urban areas;
- Infrastructure and landscape: roads;
- Road infrastructure: tree avenues in the landscape;
- European Local Landscape circle studies: implementation guide;
- Education on landscape for children;
- Training of landscape architects; Landscape and ethics)

***CoE Publishing, 2012***

Landscape and wind turbines, Landscape and leisure, Landscape and education..



*Landscape facets*  
*Reflections and proposals for the implementation*  
*of the European Landscape Convention*

Publishing  
Editions



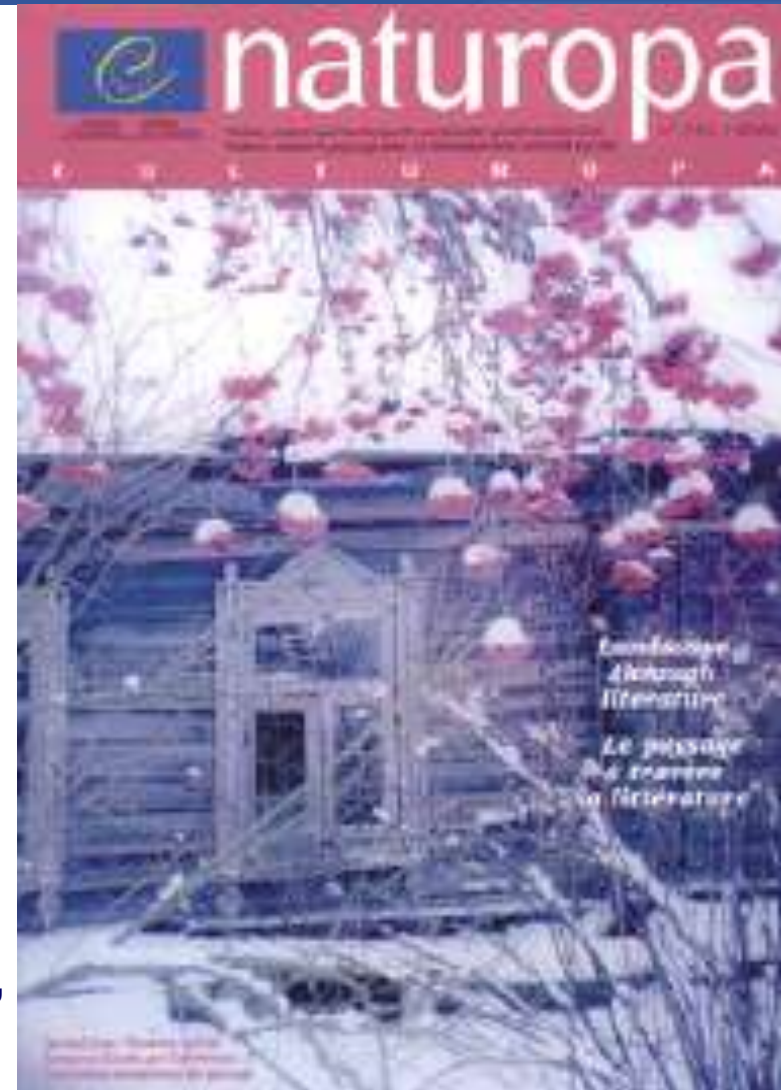


## 5. Raising awareness on landscape and its importance for individual and society

CoE *Naturopa* / “*Futuropa* for a new vision of landscape and territory” Magazine

- “Landscapes: the setting for our future lives” (*Naturopa*, 1998, n° 6)
- “The European Landscape Convention”, (*Naturopa*, 2002, n° 98)
- “Landscape through literature” (*Naturopa*, 2005, n° 103)
- “Vernacular habitat, an heritage in the landscape” (*Futuropa*, 2008, n° 1)
- “Landscape and transfrontier cooperation” (*Futuropa*, 2010, n° 2)
  - “Landscape and public space” (*Futuropa*, 2013, n° 3)

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







## 6. Fostering access

to information: the European Landscape Convention website

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

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

### About the Convention

[Text of the Convention](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)

[Explanatory report](#)

[Parties to the Convention](#)

[Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)

### Documentation

[Reference texts of the Council of Europe about landscape](#)

[Publications of the Council of Europe](#)

[Convention leaflet](#)

[Naturopa/Futuropa magazines](#)

### Meetings of the Convention

[Conferences](#)

[Workshops](#)

[National seminars](#)

[Working groups](#)

### Landscape Award

[Rules of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)

**Award sessions:** [2008-2009](#) | [2010-2011](#)

### National actions

[National implementation](#)

[Compendium of national data](#)



## Conclusion

**A thoroughly modern concept, landscape combines all four elements of sustainable development: natural, cultural, social and economic. It is also a constantly evolving story.**

**A unique setting and meeting place for populations, landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies.**

**A source of inspiration, it takes us on a journey, both individual and collective, through time, space and imagination.**

**Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance**

**needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its national and international policies.**



Important links with the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial / Regional Planning - CEMAT - <http://www.coe.int/CEMAT>

**13th Session, Ljubjana, Slovenia, 2003**

***“Implementation of strategies and visions for sustainable spatial development of the European continent”***

**14th Session, Lisbon, Portugal, 2006**

***“Networks for sustainable spatial development of the European continent: Bridges over Europe”***

**15th Session, Moscow, Russian Federation, 2010**

***“Future challenges: Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent in a Changing World”***

**16<sup>th</sup> Session, Greece, 2014**

***“Territorial democracy : the role of public participation in the process of sustainable territorial development of the European Continent”***

***Message of the CEMAT to Rio + 10***



