



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
EIGHTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS 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
Study visit, 7 October 2016

Opening speech

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe I would like to express our immense pleasure at being here in Yerevan at the 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and would particularly like to convey our appreciation that you have hosted this event in your beautiful country.

We extend our thanks to you, Mr Armen Ghularyan, Deputy Minister of Urban Development, for your warm hospitality. We are also delighted to see among us Mr Simon Papyan, First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection, and Ms Arev Samuelyan, Deputy Minister of Culture. Nature and culture together lie at the very heart of territories, giving rise to a landscape.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to Ms Ruzan Alaverdyan, chief advisor to the Minister of Urban Development, to Ms Naira Sarkisian, chief specialist of Urban Policy and Spatial Planning, and to their colleagues for their excellent co-operation with the Council of Europe in organising this event.

Our sincere congratulations go to Ms Ruzan Alaverdyan for her major and relentless commitment to sustainable and harmonious landscape development and for her visionary work leading to the framing of national policies taking careful account of landscape values.

In 2003 we welcomed the signing of the European Landscape Convention by Armenia, followed by ratification in 2004 and we note the significant steps made in this field since then. The texts adopted and national policies that have been set up deserve our full attention. Mr Enrico Buerger, Chair of the first two Conferences on the European Landscape Convention, is unfortunately unable to be with us but he particularly asked me to pass on his compliments to you, Ms Alaverdyan.

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I would like to extend warm thanks to Ms Liv Kirstine Mortensen, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway, for her full support in promoting implementation of the Convention.

My thanks go to Ms Anne-Marie Chavanon, Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, whose presence bears witness to the aspirations of human beings and populations for the quality of their life, for the quality of Life.

We thank the Chairs of the workshops, the speakers and participants, from Armenia and from all the states represented at this meeting, the members of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) and of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention who are here on behalf of their Ministries, the representatives of local and regional authorities and the representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organisations for their much valued attendance.

And now to Landscape matters.

Landscape is like life: it does not follow a straight line but it winds and meanders; unexpected events and surprises lie along the way. It gives me pleasure to see that the photograph of a landscape in Armenia illustrating our programme aptly symbolises this.

This image could also be a symbol of the national landscape policies which are emerging, little by little, but on a sure and ongoing footing.

We can therefore see that strategies and policy documents to ensure that the landscape dimension is taken into account are increasingly taking shape; legal and financial instruments are being set up, and new forms of co-ordination, both horizontal and vertical, are being developed.

This meeting therefore provides us with the opportunity to learn more about the advances and experiences of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention to promote national landscape policies.