

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six years ago, in May of 2007, the Montenegro became a member of the Council of Europe, and from the beginning participates in the achievement of its fundamental objectives: improving parliamentary democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Today, Montenegro has the honor to cooperate with the Council organized an important international event dedicated to the future of the area.

Montenegro in a small area sums outstanding and unique natural values, where the man with his activities has created a unique cultural model, with a wealth of biodiversity in Europe. The wealth around us obliges us to sustainable operation in landscape, which is based on professional dialogue.

In the process of integrations Montenegro harmonizes its legislation with European standards, adopting a clear and proven in practice regulations. Also, in previous years we are signatories of most international, eco-minded, agreement. The European Landscape Convention is one of those documents relating to the conservation, planning and management of areas. By ratifying of this document, adopted in Florence 2000th year, Montenegro has, together with other members of the Council of Europe recognized landscape as basis of European identity. The Convention also represents the base for the continued development and preservation of the local cultural heritage

Ministry for sustainable development and tourism, as one of its objective, has to have very careful approach to spatial planning issue in order to have balanced development of unique spatial character. In regards to this, Ministry has recognized several key goals in "Reforms in spatial planning policy" as follows:

- Spatial identity preservation and Montenegrin area recognition, as well
- European spatial integration

as where we clearly declare ourselves to continuously apply the policy in spatial planning as an outcome of international agreements and regulations adopted.

We are facing a lot of pressure of development of valuable space in Montenegro, due to the need for economic prosperity, on the one hand, feeling the need for an adequate response and controlled spatial organization, on the other hand. Therefore, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism undertakes activities that seek maximum involvement of professional arguments, cooperation with local government structures, seeking public support. One of such activities is the development of Special Purpose Spatial Plan of the Coastal area, which includes six coastal municipalities in which we strive, through the cooperation at various levels, balance the capacity of the area and the need for development. The imperative is

certainly sustainable development, where the negative impacts of economic activity will be kept to a minimum.

Sure, activities only towards the protection existing wealth is not enough, they need to strengthen the awareness and technical instruments in planning, in order to provide circumstances for creation of pleasant place to live, regardless to the pressures that the future holds. I believe that I have learned some painful lessons of inadequate activities in landscape, and that these plans will the best use of potential of coastal areas.

In order to better understand the landscape, it is necessary to identify and determine all structures affecting his change, a change that is the product of the constant interaction of social activities.. I believe that the topic the meeting "*The future of the territories, landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy*" provide member states of the Council of Europe, a wide range of conclusions and recommendations that could be used for international resolutions on various levels of management.

Ladies and gentlemen, the protection, management and planning of landscapes is a challenge for us, especially given the pressures of development and diversity in Montenegro. We have the honor to host the experts from all over Europe, and generate a framework for the exchange of ideas, experiences, seeking common solutions.

It is my great pleasure that 13th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention is held in the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje and for the first time in country which is not yet the member of the European Union.

I believe that Montenegro will continue use they potential and play an active role in strengthening of the goals of the Council of Europe and implement the European Landscape Convention.