

**13th COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

*“Territories of the future,
landscape identification and assessment:
an exercise in democracy”*

Cetinje, Montenegro, 2-3 October 2013

Claudia LUCIANI

Director of Democratic Governance

Dear Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr Branimir Gvozdenovic, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, in organising this meeting with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

I would also like to thank the Director General of Sector for Special Planning, Ms Sanja Ljeskovic Mitrovic, Mr Vuk Markovic, Landscape Architect within the Sector for Spatial Planning, for their co-operation. The Mayor of Cetinje, Mr Aleksaksandar Bogdanovic, for having invited us to your beautiful city as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of Montenegro and Mr Dušan Vuksanovic, for his commitment in the field of landscape.

I welcome Montenegro's commitment and engagement in promoting sustainable development, as an essential foundation of human rights and democracy.

This, the 13th Meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention is entitled: *“Territories of the future: landscape identification and assessment, an exercise in democracy”*.

Democracy will be examined during these two days in the light of the theme of landscape, an essential dimension for people and an important component of sustainable territorial development.

As you know, the European Landscape Convention was first adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in July 2000, and opened for signature by member states of the Organisation in Florence in October of the same year. The 47 member states of the Organisation thus expressed the desire to insert the landscape dimension in the political agenda of governments and to promote international co-operation in this field.

38 members of the Organisation have now ratified the Convention and two others have signed it. Work for the implementation of this international treaty are proceeding favourably and we particularly welcome the upcoming launch of the European Landscape Convention Information System as an important component of the Council of Europe Observatory on the Convention, following the decisions of the Council of Europe Conference on the Convention and of the Steering Committee of Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape. To achieve this, great effort was required from all those involved, and I would like to thank the governments and all the people who actively took part in this process.

These activities are anchored in the priorities of the Council of Europe in terms of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Convention underlines the importance of its Parties to establish procedures for the general public, local and regional authorities, and other stakeholders in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies, whose purpose is to meet the public's aspirations regarding the quality of their living environment.

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