

- Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism in Montenegro
- Madam General Director and Vice-Chair
- Madam Dean
- Mayor
- Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- President of the Committee of Senior Officials – CEMAT
- Professor
- Madam Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs
- Distinguished delegates, INGO's, observers and experts landscape
- Dear colleagues and friends,

In my capacity as Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, I would like to welcome you to the thirteenth meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Convention landscape, here in Cetinje. I will also warmly thank the Government of Montenegro for hosting the Workshop.

The topic for this 13th workshop - "Territories of the future, landscape identification and assessment: an exercise in democracy" - is important. It gives us the opportunity to investigate further the relationship between spatial planning and landscape planning. Knowledge about the nation's landscapes and landscape analyses form the basis for a democratic discussion based on the fact that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being, and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.

I want - referring to the cooperation established with CEMAT and the expressed wishes that the experience from the joint CEMAT Symposium and ELC Workshop held in Thessalonica, Greece 2012 should be repeated- to emphasize the close relationship between spatial planning and landscape planning.

- 1) On the one side, the landscape expresses the *human* qualities of the territory – bringing new life and ideas into the spatial planning processes
- 2) On the other side, the spatial planning provides the arena and instrument for making our landscape quality objectives come true:
 - wellbeing of the citizens, physical and mental health
 - active citizens, public participation and civil society
 - attractive communities, fostering creativity, entrepreneurship and job generation

Unfortunately, it was not possible to organise the 17th International CEMAT Symposium as planned, in conjunction with our workshop here in Montenegro.

In Norway, we are also disappointed by the fact that the Council of Europe has cancelled two meetings and a connected symposium scheduled for 2013 in the CEMAT Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), with no further explanation (with the exception of a brief e-mail that informed that it has not been possible to stick to the calendar of meetings as originally foreseen). This is something we ought to be concerned about, given that the aim of this meeting is to promote an integrated approach to spatial / regional planning and good governance, and in particular to implement the European Landscape Convention, Article 5c) and Article 6 C.

As we discussed at the Seventh Conference of Member States of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention in March this year, we have to keep in mind the interrelations between the human landscape (including cultural and natural heritage), spatial development, human rights and democracy.

It is important that we have in mind those two key points that Mrs Maggie Roe emphasised in her conclusion at the 12th Workshop in Greece;

- The issue of *power relations and structures* in spatial planning and landscape planning;
- The idea of *intelligence* in relation to participatory processes in the landscape.

The European Landscape Convention is important as a means of implementing the prime objectives of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to deal with some main problems facing the society today,

I am sure that the discussions and exchanges that will take place during this workshop will further reinforce the role of the European Landscape Convention as a key tool for successful ‘living together’, improving the quality of life and the access to democratic participation of European people.

I wish our Workshop every success.