

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (79) 9

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION CARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL LANDSCAPES

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 April 1979
at the 303rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolutions Nos. 1 and 2 of the European Ministerial Conferences on the Environment (Vienna, 1973 ; Brussels, 1976) on management of the natural environment and the protection of wildlife ;

Considering that one of the main objectives of the protection of nature and natural resources is the conservation on the one hand of ecological diversity and on the other of the various biotopes and of the species of flora, fauna and types of vegetation they contain ;

Recognising the following conception of natural and semi-natural landscapes : the natural environment including the physical environment as a whole (climate, soil, water), the biocenoses (flora, vegetation, fauna), the whole more or less formed by man and by past and present social and economic factors ;

Considering in consequence that the landscape is not a static collection of elements but the result of a complex system of interdependent actions and agents in continuous evolution ;

Noting that rapid changes, particularly increasing urbanisation, the development of infrastructures and industry, the intensification or the neglect of agriculture and forestry, the multiplication of touristic and recreational activities, have considerable influence on the landscape and may bring about a marked deterioration in the quality of the environment and of life itself ;

Noting that the identification and evaluation of landscapes, their appropriate preservation and protection, is necessary for the maintenance of the diversity of the natural environment at national and European level ;

Recognising that the information supplied by the card for the identification and evaluation of landscapes of the competent Council of Europe committee may contribute to this goal, and that this information will also encourage and facilitate decision-making by those responsible for the planning and management of the environment,

Recommends that the governments of the Council of Europe member states should apply the measures set out below :

1. Make an inventory of the natural and semi-natural landscapes of European interest, basing them on the identification and evaluation card of the competent Council of Europe committee, and deposit the cards with the Council of Europe so that the competent committee may decide upon follow-up action. Where such an inventory has already been made, or is in hand, complete the cards with the available information about areas of a European or possible European interest.

2. Place under protection landscapes with particular interest and manage them efficiently according to ecological principles.
3. Designate for the European network of biogenetic reserves those landscapes or parts of landscapes which comply with the principles of Resolution (76) 17 on the said European network.