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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

NATIONAL POLICIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

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I. Introduction

To date, 38 Council of Europe Member States have ratified the Convention: Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Two States have signed the Convention: Iceland and Malta.

The European Landscape Convention states that Each Party "undertakes: to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning" (Article 5 – General measures). It states that "'Landscape policy' means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes" (Article 1, b.).

The Parties moreover undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular "to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention" (Article 8, c.).

The following works are underway.

1. 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops on "*National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities*", Yerevan, Armenia, 5-7 October 2016

The 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops on "*National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities*", is organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ministry of Urban Development of Armenia and will be held in Yerevan on 5-7 October 2016.

The meeting aims to present the experiences of national policies adopted or under development, considering in particular the provisions of Article 5, according to which the Parties undertake:

- to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6 of the Convention ;
- to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies;

- to integrate landscape into their regional and town planning policies and in their cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

The Meeting will cover the following aspects:

- strategies and policy documents;
- legal and financial instruments;
- integration, horizontal and vertical co-ordination.

The contributions will present the lessons learned and the added value of the policies adopted, for future evolution.

The conclusions of the Meeting will be presented at the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (March 2017, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg) and then to the CDCPP.

The invitation letters will be sent shortly.

2. European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe

The European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe aims to promote the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and help provide mutual technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the Convention. At its 1187th meeting, 11-12 December 2013 (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1187), the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2013\)4](#) on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its glossary.

In preparation for the 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops on *“National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities”* mentioned above, the National Representatives for the European Landscape Convention were requested, by letter of the Secretariat of 19 January 2016 confirmed by messages sent in May 2016, to kindly complete the form of the Information System. The “User Manual” available to national and regional representatives of the Information System, in paragraph 5 invites them, if they wish, to create passwords for “Delegates” responsible for completing the questionnaire. A password to access the online questionnaire has been sent to them.

In due course, the national representatives for the European Landscape Convention will have the opportunity to provide passwords for their regional representatives.

3. 9th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

The aim of the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention is to present to the member States of the Council of Europe the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, and practical questions relating to its implementation.

They allow the Council of Europe to ensure, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention, its implementation. The Committee of experts mentioned in this Article is, according to the Committee of Ministers' decision, the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP). The conclusions of the Conference will therefore be brought to the attention of the CDCPP which will then report to the Committee of Ministers.

The 9th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention will be held in the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg from 20 to 24 March or from 27 to 31 March 2017 (the dates will be confirmed shortly).

II. Action required

The Committee is invited to make any comments it deems appropriate.

The Committee may also invite Council of Europe Member States to actively participate:

- at the 18th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops on *“National policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: challenges and opportunities”*, Yerevan, Armenia, 5-7 October 2016;
- to the implementation of the Information System of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ELC L6);
- at the 9th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, to be held in the framework of the Cyprus Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and will be held in Strasbourg from 20 to 24 March or 27 March 31, 2017 (dates to be confirmed shortly).

The Committee may also invite States that have not yet done so to sign and / or ratify the European Landscape Convention.