



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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T-FLOR (2004) 14

**EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
– Florence Convention –**

***CONFERENCE
ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

on the occasion of its entry into force

*Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
17 June 2004*

REPORT

*Document of the Secretariat General
prepared by the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division*

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Welcoming speech

1. Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, who are listed in Appendix 1 to this report. The text of her speech is in Appendix 2 to this report.

2. Ceremony of signature of the European Landscape Convention by Ukraine

2. Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio invited Mr Sergii Poliakov, Ukraine's Minister for Protection of the Natural Environment, to sign the European Landscape Convention. Mr Poliakov signed the European Landscape Convention and Ms de Boer-Buquicchio congratulated him on his country's commitment to it.

3. Opening speeches

3. Mr Gilles Chouraqui, Ambassador of France to the Council of Europe and Chair of the Rapporteurs Group of the Ministers' Deputies on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) gave an opening speech, the text of which is included in Appendix 3 to this report.

Mr Sergii Poliakov outlined his country's great interest in the Convention. The text of his remarks appears in Appendix 4 to this report.

Mr Keith Whitmore, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe gave an opening speech, the text of which is reproduced in Appendix 5 to this report.

3. Election of the Chair

4. Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (DG IV), proceeded to conduct the election of the Conference Chair. On a proposal of Mr Jean-François Seguin, representative of France, Mr Enrico Buergi was elected Conference Chair, by acclamation.

4. Adoption of the agenda

5. The agenda as in Appendix 6 to this report was adopted.

6. Statements by the Governmental delegations

6. Mrs Margarita Ortega, representative of Spain and Mrs Ivana Radič, representative of Croatia submit statements, which are included in Appendix 7 and 8 to this report.

7. Introduction of the working session

7. Mr Enrico Buergi, Chair of the Conference thanked the participants for their trust. The text of his speech is included in Appendix 9 to this report.

8. Presentation of activities

8. Mrs Déjeant-Pons, Head of the spatial planning and landscape Division said that the aim of the conference was to bring together the contracting and signatory States to the Convention, as well as the States invited to sign it, on the occasion of its entry into force. At the second Conference of contracting and signatory States to the Convention (Strasbourg, 28-29 November 2002) the participants had selected three themes to be explore in greater depth in preparation for the Convention's entry into force [*T-FLOR 2 (2002) 27*]. Presentations on the three themes:

- integration of the landscape into international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes;
- landscapes and individual and social well-being;
- landscape and spatial planning.

Would follow. For each theme the representative of a State had volunteered to assume the function of rapporteur and had used the services of an expert.

9. Theme 1 : Integration of the landscape into international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes

[*T-FLOR (2004) 2*]

9.1. Presentation of the report

by Mr José Perez Lazaro, representative of Spain and Professor Michel Prieur, expert to the Council of Europe

9. Mr Perez Lazaro introduced the theme. He noted the value of the compendium of reference texts of the Council of Europe in the field of landscape [*T-FLOR (2003) 7*] prepared by the Secretariat and forecast that the Convention's entry into force would generate movement both at national policy-making level and in the Convention's relationship with other international instruments. He particularly emphasised of European community policies.

10. Professor Prieur presented the report on "Integration of the landscape into international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes" [*T-FLOR (2004) 2*]. He added that the FAO had recently organised a meeting on the theme of traditional agriculture as common heritage and he expressed the view that landscape values should be incorporated into this project.

9.2. Interventions and discussions

11. Three reports were presented :

- Mr Dirk M. Washer, representing Landscape Europe presented a publication entitled "*Learning from European Transfrontier Landscapes*", published by Landscape Europe in 2004, with a view to supporting the European Landscape Convention;

- Me Giovanni Bana, representing the European Foundation Il Nibbio, presented the programme of a summer university organised on landscape, to be held in Como (Italy) from 31 August to 2 September on landscape, which would focus on the themes of the European Landscape Convention;

- Mrs Christiana Storelli, representing of the Mediterranean landscape workshop presented a summary of work done with a view to implementing the European Landscape Convention. The summary appears in Appendix 10 to this report.

12. The following points emerged from the discussion :

- bilateral co-operation between neighbouring States needed to be stepped up and appropriate strategies had to be put in place;
- landscapes had to come alive and their existence depended on their being animated by communities;
- types of landscape ranged very widely and it was important not to discount their diversity;
- the memorandum of co-operation concluded between the Council of Europe and Unesco in 1952 and the exchange of letters of July 2002 on co-ordination of an activity programme involving the Council of Europe and the “Man and the biosphere” programme should be used as points of reference;
- atlases and maps needed to be produced in order to document the current situation, but the way forward was to work with changing circumstances, taking the starting point as a reference situation. It was important to work with the processes of change affecting landscapes (which were not immutable) and to proceed in the direction of political action to protect, manage or develop landscapes as appropriate;
- the development of landscape had to be taken into account to the greatest possible extent;
- co-operation with other international instruments, such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance, needed to be developed.

9.3. Conclusions

13. Mr Perez Lazaro and Mr Prieur presented the conclusions of the work on Theme 1:

Four priorities are emerging and two short-term and two medium-term initiatives were called for. These constituted an initial response to the innovative ambitions embodied in the Convention confirming that landscape was a resource shared by all the countries of Europe. The four activities were also intended to bring more cohesion and synergy to international action on landscape matters.

Short-term initiatives:

- to institute a direct collaboration between the Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention and the Secretariat of the European Outline Convention on transfrontier co-operation between territorial communities or authorities (the Madrid Convention), in order to draft a model bilateral agreement on transfrontier action (in relation to transfrontier landscapes);
- to draw up a general strategy for implementing article 7 of the European Landscape Convention enabling the States Parties to reach agreement on ways of promoting landscape as part of international policies and programmes within both the Council of Europe and other international organisations.

Medium-term actions:

- to launch an institutional process pursuant to article 14 paragraph 1 of the Convention concerning the European Community’s accession to the European Landscape Convention;
- to strengthen the institutional co-operation process with Unesco, and particularly with the World Heritage Convention, on the basis of the memorandum of co-operation between the Council of Europe and Unesco.

10. Theme 2 : Landscapes and individual and social well-being

[T-FLOR (2004) 3]

10.1. Presentation of the report

by Mr Jean-François Seguin, representative of France, M. Zygmunt Krzeminski, representative of Poland and Professor Yves Luginbühl, expert to the Council of Europe

14. Professor Luginbühl introduced the report on “Landscapes and individual and social well-being” [*T-FLOR (2004) 3*]. He said that implementation of the Convention ought to have a positive impact on well-being, a concept that included a spiritual element in the cultural sense.

10.2. Discussion

15. The following points emerged from the discussion:

- the Convention was unique inasmuch as it integrated material and cultural aspects of landscape;
- “virtual landscape” could never replace the experience of the real thing;
- there was a need to promote and develop practical initiatives at local level;
- the great challenge posed by the Convention was that of taking entire countries or areas into account;
- it would be useful to study a possible correlation between environmental degradation and the social problems of delinquency and violence;
- landscapes that produced a sense of well-being were not necessarily stable: landscape was continually changing;
- the quest for well-being was now common to all social classes;
- the subject of landscape as it related to violence and globalisation (eg loss of distinctiveness, standardisation, the idea that “bigger is better”, and the concepts of monolithic landscape and monolithic culture) merited closer study in the future;
- the question of landscape diversity as a contributory factor to well-being and personal, individual and social enrichment should also be explored, and ways of reintroducing diversity should be identified.

10.3. Conclusions

16. Mr Seguin commented that the value attached to landscape was a familiar subject of discussion at landscape-related conferences. In his view, several distinct types of value were involved. He also urged that cultural as well as social criteria should be taken into account. The Convention should be seen not as something set in stone but rather as an innovative tool. Motorways and wind farms, for example, should be capable of being integrated into beautiful landscapes.

Landscape had an impact on both general and individual well-being. The Convention was concerned with landscape as a universal resource and thus with the general interest. The difficulty lay in taking decisions about spatial development that reflected the aspiration of local people.

The Convention aimed to achieve a situation where high-quality landscapes could be found everywhere. People had to be given the opportunity of living in high-quality landscape without having to travel to find it. Indicators of well-being should therefore be incorporated into the system of monitoring the Convention. More collective intelligence was required in order to pursue the aim of landscape quality.

17. Mr Seguin, Mr Krzeminski and Mr Luginbühl presented the conclusions on Theme 2:

Arrangements for monitoring implementation of the European Landscape Convention needed to be developed and refined: in particular, procedures for evaluating its effectiveness – ie its contribution to improved social and individual well-being – had to be explored.

11. Theme 3 : Landscape and spatial planning

[*T-FLOR (2004) 4*]

11.1. Presentation of report

by Ms Ruzan Alaverdyan, representative of Armenia, Ms Maria-José Festas, representative of Portugal and Professor Florencio Zoido Naranjo, expert to the Council of Europe

18. Ms Alaverdyan submitted a statement, the text of which is reproduced in Appendix 11 to this report.

19. Professor Zoido Naranjo presented the report “Landscape and spatial planning” [*T-FLOR (2004) 4*].

11.2. Discussion

20. Ms Emilie Droeven, representative of Belgium gave a presentation of landscape policy in Belgium (Walloon Region), a summary of which appears in Appendix 12 to this report.

21. The following points emerged from the discussion:

- work was required on the question of access to the countryside;
- it was often hard to strike a balance between economic interests and human environment;
- the importance of landscape needed to be recognised at the highest level.

Mr Seguin said there was a need to determine whether spatial development as an area of policy was sector-based or cross-sectoral. Public policies were highly segmented (under the headings of culture, transport, etc.) but they had in common the fact of their practical realisation on the ground. Landscape was a major contributory factor in spatial planning inasmuch as it embodied people’s perception of the way that sector-based policies translated into planning decisions. Landscape was, in this sense, a product of spatial planning. While it was not easy, at European level, to monitor all the different tiers of activity (national, regional, local and community-based) there was no point in over-simplifying the task.

11.3. Conclusions

22. Ms Alaverdyan, Ms Festas and Professor Zoido Naranjo presented the conclusions from Theme 3 :

The following steps needed to be taken:

In the short term:

- introducing greater reference to landscape, as defined in the European Landscape Convention, into European texts (at both EU and pan-European level);
- promoting the development in each state and/or European region of a sequenced approach to landscape as follows:
 - identification, description and assessment;
 - preparation of criteria, overall strategies, guidelines or spatial development plans;
 - definition of landscape criteria, guidelines and standards in respect of activities that impacted on landscape;
- systematically incorporating the question of landscape into spatial planning texts in a differentiated manner while at the same time relating it closely to the other issues normally covered by such text.

In the medium and long term:

- promoting initiatives to give society a better appreciation of landscape: these could include landscape route projects and the development of environment-friendly viewpoints;
- developing the relationships between landscape and spatial development and between landscape and local development in a more positive way, creating an incentive for input by people involved in local politics, business or social activity at various levels.

12. Review of themes covered

23. Mrs Déjeant-Pons recalled that four themes had been studied in 2002 ¹:

- Landscape policies and their contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural and ecologic approaches) (Preamble to the Convention) ;
- landscape identification and evaluation and quality objectives, making use of cultural and natural resources (article 6 of the Convention) ;
- Awareness-raising, education and training (article 6 of the Convention) ;
- Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape (article 5 of the Convention);

She said the reports on all the themes were to be published, and a Guide to the Convention would be published subsequently on the basis of all the work done.

24. The participants agreed that a great deal of work had been done since the Convention had been opened for signature and that progress had been made in promoting understanding of landscape as a concept, and in the interpretation of the Convention. They hoped that the explanatory report would be revised in the light of these new input.

The participants welcomed the fact that the Convention had come into force and had been ratified by 13 Council of Europe Member states and signed by 29 others. They urged other states to sign and/or ratify it without delay and agreed that the importance of landscape should be recognised at the highest possible level.

13. Closure of the Conference

25. Ms Catherine Roth, Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage said that the Convention provided a comprehensive response to the two main aims of her directorate, namely to promote cultural identity and cultural diversity on the one hand and to encourage sustainable development on the other. She was pleased to see the interest shown in the European Landscape Convention by governments as well as international governmental and non governmental organisations. She said the Conference had been a platform for launching the implementing process and she thanked everyone who had worked so efficiently over the previous four years to promote the Convention.

¹ See documents reports of these Conferences : T-FLOR 2 (2002) 20, 21, 22, 23 et 24.

ANNEXE 1

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APPENDIX 2

OPENING SPEECH

*by Mrs Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO,
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe*

Dear Minister,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The mid-19th century French writer Jules Verne conceived of machines which could transport man to the moon, to the ocean depths and to the core of the earth itself.

Through his classic adventures “Around the World in 80 Days” and “Journey to the Centre of the Earth”, Verne awakened a curiosity about man’s potential and a taste for travel and the experience of other lands and cultures.

More than 130 years later, many of Verne’s dreams have become reality. His alchemy of science, techno-phile invention and enterprise has become the hallmark of an age where extraordinary creativity and ambition have made possible hitherto unimaginable progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Council of Europe was created to achieve ... and I quote from Article 1 of the our Statute: “a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress”.

The Council of Europe has played an important role in the institution-building which has assured the social and economic progress of the last 50 years.

Now, influenced deeply by our commitment to cultural and biological diversity, we are furthering attempts to encourage sustainable progress that respects and protects our natural environment.

In this project, we are aided by the notion that Europe’s cultural inheritance takes its primary cue from the Continent’s climate and landscape.

The sheer physical variation of a landscape that has inspired artists, writers and romantic poets down the ages, bears witness to an evolving regional and national narrative.

When speaking of the wonders of our landscape and its impact on culture, some will invoke the dramatic images painted by the old masters Gainsborough, Gellée, Salvator Rosa and Cozens.

Others will recall the breath-taking scenery of a favoured holiday destination, for we are blessed in Europe with mountains and coast-lines, forest and grass land, volcanoes and caves.

Many in this audience today will come from regions with landscapes marked, for better or worse, by mining, by agricultural exploitation, by fishing and by mass tourism.

In seeking to defend the range and beauty of this landscape, the Council of Europe affirms its commitment to diversity in all its forms.

Technological developments in production, agriculture, forestry, industry and mining, stand condemned if they adversely impact upon the quality and diversity of the European landscape.

That is why we give such importance to the Landscape Convention, which looks to protect the quality and diversity of European landscapes.

This Convention respects the centuries-old alliance of nature and culture, ensuring our geological assets escape the damage or transformation that would leave them featureless and uniform.

Indeed, changing practices in spatial planning, urban development, transport networks, tourism and leisure, should be complementary and should not be seen, with hindsight, as the accelerator of a worsening environment.

Our natural and cultural heritage is interwoven and in this context, it is entirely logical that three different sectors of the Council of Europe should work together on the Landscape Convention.

Biological and Landscape Diversity, Cultural Heritage and the Senior Officials Committee of the CEMAT now work in unison, in a transversal and multi-disciplinary approach which pools both resources and expertise.

Opened for signature on 20 October 2000 in Florence, the European Landscape Convention has now been ratified by 13 member States and thus entered into force on 1 March this year.

Through the Landscape Convention, we have put down a marker for the future, making clear our determination to protect our natural environment.

We have announced clearly that landscape protection in our cities, towns and countryside involves the exceptional and, if I may say, the unexceptional scenery of this continent.

With this Convention, we encourage nations to take landscape matters into account when discussing environment, sustainable development and regional planning.

As we give genuine impetus to the increasing importance of landscape as a common point binding different cultures, we elevate it as an ecological, cultural, social and economic value.

Yet this Convention and indeed, this Conference today, have significance beyond the principal aim of preserving our natural inheritance.

As the contest between development and conservation appears ever more intense, more will be asked of our commitment and much more will be expected.

It will be necessary for you to further strengthen synergies. You will have to devise national strategies – and, above all, you will have to implement them through the work programme.

Fortunately, you will not start from zero. Much has already been done over the last four years to help this new Convention come to life and I should like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Mr Enrico Buergi for his notable efforts.

Mr Buergi chaired the Landscape Convention's first two Conferences of contracting and signatory States and encouraged the solid progress we honour today.

The Ukraine has expressed its wish to join 28 other nations in becoming a signatory to this Convention. I salute this event and express the hope that ratification will soon follow.

Now, as we look ahead, it is clear that for all its immense powers of prediction, science fiction, as pioneered by authors such as Jules Verne and HG Wells, is wrong on at least one point.

Spacecraft can fly us to the moon. Submarines can journey to the bottom of the deepest seas and we can easily zip around the world in 80 days like Phileas Fogg but we have yet to invent a Wellsian time machine.

We will not, for the foreseeable future, be able to go back in time with retro-active precision and simply correct our mistakes.

So let us be at our most persuasive when we explain why and how we wish to preserve our natural treasures.

And, let us be at our most perceptive, when we act together to ensure that Europe retains its natural beauty for generations to come.

I wish you all much success with the challenge of implementing the Convention.

APPENDIX 3

OPENING SPEECH

by Mr Gilles CHOURAQUI,

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to the Council of Europe,
Chair of the Rapporteur Group of the Ministers' Deputies on Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
(GR-C)*

Deputy Secretary General,

Representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe,

Government delegates and Representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having had the pleasure of taking part in the second Conference of the Contracting and Signatory States to the European Landscape Convention, I am delighted to be with you today for this conference on the occasion of the Convention's coming into force.

As Chair of the Rapporteur Group of the Ministers' Deputies on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment, I am especially pleased by this success and by the path that the European states have decided to follow.

Landscape affects us, it can disturb us or bring us ease or it can be tedious, but we are never, consciously or unconsciously, indifferent to landscape. It leaves its mark on us, we absorb it and it helps to transform us. How therefore can we deny its crucial importance or fail to take it into account?

The European Landscape Convention is one of the visionary instruments of the new century. What will become of our European landscapes in this era of globalisation? How can we ensure that they are cared for, that they do not deteriorate or lose what is special to them? How can we monitor the changes that they undergo, and guide the process of modernisation? These are the major challenges we must address.

The Convention makes the point that landscape is an important factor in the general interest, culturally, ecologically, environmentally and socially, and it constitutes a resource for economic activity, notably in relation to tourism. It is an expression of the concern on the part of the Council of Europe Member States to achieve sustainable development based on the right balance between social needs, the economy, the environment and, of course, culture. As emphasised in the Ljubljana Declaration on the territorial dimension of sustainable development, adopted last September at the 13th session of the CEMAT, territory is the bearing ground and the indispensable framework of human dwelling and activity, and therefore the basis of sustainable development. It is up to us, by taking account of its landscape dimension, to invest it with meaning.

I trust that these few words will serve as an indication of the interest with which we follow your work and the support we hope to offer it.

Now, as we look ahead, it is clear that for all its immense powers of prediction, science fiction, as pioneered by authors such as Jules Verne and HG Wells, is wrong on at least one point.

Spacecraft can fly us to the moon. Submarines can journey to the bottom of the deepest seas and we can easily zip around the world in 80 days like Phileas Fogg but we have yet to invent a Wellsian time machine.

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I wish you all much success with the challenge of implementing the Convention.

APPENDIX 4

SPEECH

by Mr Sergii POLIAKOV, Minister of Protection of natural Environment of Ukraine

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to greet you on the occasion of the signing of the European Landscape Convention, which came into force on 1 March 2004.

In its recent years of independence, Ukraine has become a party to many international environmental protection conventions and agreements, both global and European ones, and in doing so it has entered into a number of commitments concerning the protection and sustainability of biological and landscape diversity. One of the main problems facing us is to make provision for meeting the demands of these legal instruments and set up regional and local bodies responsible for environmental policy. Ukraine, together with the UNEP and the Council of Europe, initiated the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, which was signed on 22 May 2003 at the 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kyiv, Ukraine. The convention is an regional co-operation instrument providing for a policy geared to the protection, sustainable use and renewal of biological and landscape diversity – what constitutes the “green heart of Europe”.

The Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine now is considering a Bill on an ecological network. One of the key ideas behind this draft legislation is to make due provision for the landscape when the Ukrainian national ecological network is set up as an integral part of the Pan-European Ecological Network.

With a view to protecting Ukraine’s natural landscapes, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine is drawing up recommendations for the assessment of the present condition of natural landscapes, which will include scientific substantiation and an assessment of the relevant indicators and criteria. Principles are being devised for the inclusion of natural landscapes in the the List of Especially Valuable Natural Landscapes in Ukraine, and a “Green Book of Ukraine”, which includes rare plant species and plant species that are in danger of dying out, is being compiled. You know how difficult it is to put into practice even worthwhile ecological decisions, and you can imagine how difficult it is to do this in a country with an economy in transition. We know, however, that such efforts are needed if the Europe of the future is to be green and flourishing.

Today Ukraine has the honour of signing the European Landscape Convention. The signing and subsequent ratification of the convention by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) will help solve key problems connected with the formation and reconstruction of landscapes and enhance the well-being of the people, while co-ordination will ensure that the various financial and economic measures take account of ecological considerations.

In signing the European Landscape Convention, Ukraine undertakes to ensure that the protection and sustainability of biological and landscape diversity are objectives that are incorporated into the various aspects of government policy, in particular in the form of sustainable agriculture, forestry and river basin management, “green” tourism and ecologically sound transport, energy and industry.

Signing the European Landscape Convention will enhance understanding of the role of landscapes in Ukraine in the cultural, environmental, nature conservation and social spheres in which the public are interested, and make broad sections of the population aware that landscapes are an asset that boosts economic activity and that the protection, regulation and planning of landscapes will help create new jobs. The establishment of the “Svyaty Gory” (“Holy Mountains”) and “Gutsulschina” national

natural parks by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine is an example of a local initiative. Steps are now under way to set up the “Galitsky” national natural park. The nature conservation sites mentioned are being set up at the instigation of local communities.

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, I should like to congratulate you at the beginning of this conference and wish you every success in your work. Judicious joint decisions concerning the protection of European landscapes are of tremendous importance in a world context.

Thank you for your kind attention.

APPENDIX 5

INTRODUCING SPEECH

by Mr Keith WHITMORE, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

1. The Congress started work on a draft convention in 1994 and at first had to deal with reactions ranging from simple lack of interest, through barely disguised derision to open hostility. At the time the proposal to produce the outline of an international treaty on the landscape was considered impossible to fulfil. Now, ten years on, this lack of understanding is behind us and it might perhaps be claimed that the dream is about to become reality. The European Landscape Convention has finally offered the foundation a general consensus on what constitutes a “landscape heritage”. Over the last ten years, no doubt as a consequence of its purely political objectives and its proximity to citizens’ everyday needs, the Congress has managed to secure an agreement on landscape among all those concerned whilst avoiding interminable doctrinal disputes about the definition of landscape and whether it is the domain of the biologist, the ecologist or the nature conservationist, or exclusively the province of archaeologists, historians, cultural heritage conservators or whatever.

2. However excessive enthusiasm is still not in order. The Convention’s adoption, opening for signature and entry into force in the States that have already ratified it by no means set the final seal on governments’ landscape activities. The Congress is convinced that the work has barely started and that its completion is intimately bound with the implementation of the political project of which the Convention is simply the authoritative legal expression. This political project is undoubtedly an ambitious one, indeed some have even called it revolutionary. The terms are not unjustified, given that what is sought is a major shift in the relationship between citizens or the public and their local areas, based on the principles embodied in the Convention. For the project to succeed, the authorities must ensure that, like a liquid flowing through a complex structure, the Convention’s principles penetrate the very innermost workings of society. Without the co-operation of national, regional and local authorities, the liquid in question will remain in its exalted European container, where it will be put on display by a small number of particularly inspired or zealous politicians and officials. Yet this liquid is no magic potion, but simply a form of sap which, if it is to bring life, must be allowed to flow and become a resource accessible to all. This sap must course through the veins of the civil, administrative and institutional structures of the states that make up our continent. Based on the subsidiarity principle, it must reach the very roots of our complex society and inspire those who still treat their natural surroundings exclusively as a means of satisfying their own material interests rather than as an essential source of environmental balance, public health, sustainable development. Clearly then national governments’ first step must be to encourage ratification of the Convention. However, even more importantly, public authorities, notably local and regional governments, must as far as possible avoid taking positions for purely short-term electoral purposes that contravene the Convention’s letter and spirit and puts at risk the developing awareness of the landscape in the national community concerned.

3. The large number of signatures to the Convention and the growing number of ratifications are confirmation of the political importance national governments ascribe to this new European treaty. This great interest is probably rooted in the convention’s novel approach and its likely legal and political effects, both quantitative and qualitative, at local, regional, national and European levels. The Convention’s entry into force opened the way to the democratisation of the landscape, by linking it to the local and regional communities directly concerned, and a new dimension for international public action to improve the quality of life of these communities throughout the Organisation’s member States. Reflecting its origins, the Convention pays particular attention to local and regional authorities, by:

- a) referring explicitly to the subsidiarity principle and the European Charter of Local Self-Government;
- b) committing the contracting parties to establishing procedures for local and regional authorities' participation in defining and implementing landscape policies;
- c) requiring full local and regional authority involvement in identifying and assessing landscapes.

Taken together, these provisions provide local and regional authorities with a strong legal incentive to exercise their institutional landscape responsibilities.

4. In most of the Council of Europe's member States direct responsibility for landscape matters lies with regions or local authorities, in the latter case sometimes as a regionally delegated responsibility. The Congress will do everything in its power to alert local and regional authorities to the importance of their role. With the Convention's entry into force, the time has come for local and regional authorities to assume their responsibilities under the Convention, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle. The Congress wants to help local and regional authorities to carry out these responsibilities in accordance with the principles of the Convention. Given the difficulty of the task, it is important that authorities should be able to exchange information in a spirit of co-operation and to their mutual benefit, and that their decisions should also be based on the knowledge and experience of the academic world and the voluntary sector. The multidisciplinary nature of the information needed for the successful protection, management and planning of the landscape in accordance with Convention principles calls for the development of significant scientific and technical resources. It is clear that, despite their political commitment, many European local and regional authorities lack such resources. Some however, do have access to them and in a spirit of transfrontier and inter-authority solidarity could share them with less developed areas, in consultation with the scientific and NGO's bodies. Such links will require a certain amount of co-ordination and organisation if the Convention is to be properly and fully applied, hence the need for a single European body responsible for helping local and regional authorities to combine their landscape knowledge and skills.

That is why, during its last Plenary Session, in May last, the Congress already offered its support to initiatives aimed at establishing a European network of local and regional authorities for the application of the European Landscape Convention. This network would be placed under the aegis of the Congress and would offer regions and local authorities co-ordination, assistance and technical and scientific support in carrying out their landscape responsibilities in accordance with the principles of the Convention. It would help to improve regional and local authorities' decision-making capacities in their respective spheres and in conjunction with central government, particularly in the areas of planning and authorisation procedures. The network should also be constantly aware of the need to educate the public and officials about the landscape, according to the provisions of the Convention. The network should have an open structure accessible to all. The results of its work should be shared by the maximum number of local and regional authorities concerned in practical landscape protection/management/planning activities, in conjunction with relevant academic and voluntary organisations and bodies. More particularly, the network would be principally concerned with preparing documents on the identification and assessment of landscape units, setting landscape quality objectives and decisions concerning landscape protection/management/planning. Scientific support would involve data analysis, updating and processing and the development of scientific co-operation programmes concerned with comparison, evaluation and the dissemination of findings. These activities would be supplemented by programmes and projects for informing, educating and training those concerned in this field. In addition to its scientific and technical aspects, the network could also serve as a forum for dialogue between the local and regional authorities concerned and help them to co-ordinate their landscape policies. By co-ordinating their own activities the authorities could also establish a more harmonious dialogue with central government.

The network could also complement the intergovernmental activities being undertaken by the Council of Europe committees of experts responsible for monitoring the application of the Convention. By co-ordinating local and regional authorities' action on the ground, the network should help to increase the effectiveness of governments' national and expert committees' intergovernmental activities. It could also contribute to the European co-operation envisaged in Chapter III of the Convention, particularly activities involving transfrontier co-operation. Similarly, it could publicise activities associated with the Council of Europe's Landscape Award, an initiative which, in accordance with Congress proposals, is particularly aimed at territorial authorities. To achieve maximum complementarity of these activities at European level, the Congress is ready to supply the necessary co-ordination.

5. I should like to end my intervention by saying, not without a certain degree of satisfaction that drawing on the proposals of local and regional elected representatives in the Congress, the Council of Europe has secured acceptance for a path-breaking international treaty concerned with cultural heritage and sustainable development. As such it has made its mark in an area of great current importance and in doing so has reaffirmed its origins and its underlying identity and values. In order to send out a clear message to governments willing to implement the European Landscape Convention, the Council's structures must make it clear that from both environmental and cultural heritage standpoints monitoring the Convention is one of its priorities. It would therefore be regrettable if, after so much effort, the resources needed to implement the Convention were diverted to other initiatives that, while worthy of interest, might give governments the impression that the Council of Europe could not cope with its own success. This probably underlies national governments' requests to the Council of Europe, even before the Convention's entry into force, to establish arrangements and programmes to promote co-operation in this rapidly expanding field.

Having initiated this process, the Congress is now ready to co-operate with the Council of Europe expert committees set up to monitor its application. The Congress is convinced that this monitoring activity should retain the transversal and multidisciplinary nature of the Convention so that the knowledge and skills of the government representatives required to make the system work are a source of strength rather than of division and confusion.

Without such a cross-disciplinary and flexible approach to institutional relations, the dynamic European process sought by the Convention could simply remain a dead letter. If these conditions are met, the European Landscape Convention could become a living reality whose organs would continue to supply it with fresh energy and to which the Congress would be ready to contribute to the fullest possible extent. Respect for these principles would help to sustain the spiritual force of the landscape ideal that underlies the Florence Convention and is the source of and irreplaceable guide to success in all aspects of this field.

APPENDIX 6

CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE

- 9.00-9.30 Welcome of the participants
- 9.30-9.45 Welcoming speech
by Mrs Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Ceremony of signature of the European Landscape Convention by Ukraine
by Mr Sergii POLIAKOV, Minister of Natural Environment Protection of Ukraine
- 9.45-10.45 **Opening speeches**
- Mr Gilles CHOURAQUI, Chair of the Group of Rapporteurs on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- Mr Keith WITHMORE, President of the Committee of Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Election of the Chair
- Adoption of the agenda
- Statements by the Governmental delegations
- 10.45-11.15 Break
- 11.15-11.30 Introduction by the Conference Chair and presentation of the activities by the Secretariat
- Theme 1: *Integration of the landscape into international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes (T-FLOR (2004) 2)***
- 11.30-12.00 Presentation of the report
by Mr José PEREZ LAZARO, Representative of Spain, Mr Ebbe ADOLFSSON, Representative of Sweden and Professor Michel PRIEUR, Council of Europe expert
- 12.00-12.30 Discussion and conclusions
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- Theme 2: *Landscapes and individual and social well-being (T-FLOR (2004) 3)***
- 14.00-14.30 Presentation of the report
by Mr Jean-Francois SEGUIN, Representative of France, Mr Zygmunt KRZEMINSKI, Representative of Poland and Professor Yves LUGINBÜHL, Council of Europe expert
- 14.30-15.00 Discussion and conclusions

15.00-15.30 Break

Theme 3: *Landscape and spatial planning (T-FLOR (2004) 4)*

15.30-16.00 Presentation of the report
by Mrs Ruzan ALAVERDYAN, Representative of Armenia, Mrs Maria-José
FESTAS, Representative of Portugal and Mr Florencio ZOIDO NARANJO, Council
of Europe expert

16.00-16.30 Discussion and conclusions

16.30-17.15 Recapitulation of the themes dealt within 2001 and 2002 and follow-up

17.15-17.30 Closing speech
by Mrs Catherine ROTH, Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage

* * *

19.30 Reception offered by Mr Gilles CHOURAQUI, Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of France, on the occasion of the Landscape Conference
(*Permanent Representation of France, 40 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg*)

APPENDIX 7

STATEMENT

by Ms Margarita Ortega, Representative of Spain

First of all, I would like to thank to all the responsible of this event: The Council of Europe, the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division, the Cultural Heritage Steering Committee (CDPAT) and the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP); and thanks also to all the people, experts, and official representatives of the different countries. Their efforts and enthusiasm have had possible that the European Landscape Convention can entry into force.

Between this people, I would like remember here Mr. José Miguel Alonso Fernandez-Aceytuno who passed away only two weeks ago victim of a fast illness. The Spanish delegation has lost a very active and courageous colleague. He worked intensively for dissemination and implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Spain. Particularly organising the 1st Conference of regional governments on landscape policies held in Canary Island on December 2002

As a result, the Spanish Minister of Environment has announced the intention of the Spanish government to ratify the European Landscape Convention as soon as possible after some technical problems had been solved. Meanwhile, the Minister has also announced the political decision to apply the contents and criteria of the Convention in all the specific policies of the Ministry of Environment.

Finally, I would like inform you about the Barcelona Declaration adopted last 27th May by the Spanish regions and the Minister of Environment in the framework of a Meeting about Landscape with the attendance of the Council of Europe². This Declaration emphasizes the political interest of both, central and regional governments, on the implementation of the Convention in Spain; and establishes a follow up mechanism to improve the development of the Convention in Spain.

DECLARATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION PRESENTED BY THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

CATALUNYA 2004 MEETING LANDSCAPE

Stated by the Autonomous Communities of Aragón, the Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castilla-La-Mancha, Castilla-León, Catalunya, Extremadura, Galicia, the Balearic Islands, Madrid, Murcia, the Basque Country and Valencia with the assistance of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Environment.

DECLARATION

Those present at the “Catalunya 2004 Meeting Landscape”, who met in Barcelona on 27th May in representation of the related Autonomous Communities:

Consider that the European Landscape Convention, an international agreement promoted by the Council of Europe and which came into effect recently (1st March 2004), is a treaty of great economic, social, environmental and cultural interest for the European continent as a whole and in particular for Spain, given the crucial state in which its rich and diverse countryside currently finds itself.

² See below.

They also consider that the European Landscape Convention could contribute to improving the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Spain and also could contribute to the implementation of territorial development, urban planning, environmental and cultural heritage management policies, among others.

They consider the background with respect to the First Conference of Territorial and Environmental representatives of Spain's Autonomous Communities on landscape policies, which was organised by the Government of the Canary Islands with the participation of the Ministry of Environment, the Council of Europe and UNESCO and held in Gran Canaria in December 2002, to be of great interest.

For all these reasons, they mutually agree to adopt the following declaration of aims with respect to the implementation in Spain of the European Landscape Convention and the holding of the Second Conference of the Autonomous Communities on Landscape Policy.

1. They agree to create a work group of Autonomous Community representatives in which they invite the State Administration to participate, and which will be dedicated to promoting the study, treatment and development of matters related to the possible ratification and implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

2. They consider that the European Landscape Observatory proposed by the European Congress of Regional and Local Authorities in the workshops held in Strasbourg in 2003 and which may be created in the European Landscape Convention Conference when it comes into effect, should be a body that operates as part of a network that incorporates the various existing state, regional and local schemes.

3. They value the holding of this Catalunya 2004 Meeting Landscape and the possibility of maintaining regular contacts that will provide continuity to the First Conference of Autonomous Communities, held in the Canary Islands in 2002. So, they also consider necessary to emphasise matters related to countryside management. They propose the holding of a Second Conference of Autonomous Communities on Landscape Policies in Valencia in the autumn of 2004.

4. They request that the Ministry of Environment, which is present at the meeting, communicate this declaration to the European Landscape Convention Conference when it comes into effect on 17th and 18th June in Strasbourg (France)

Barcelona 27th May 2004

APPENDIX 8

STATEMENT

by Ms Ivana RADIČ, Representative of Croatia

Ladies and gentlemen, hello.

I should like to begin by introducing myself.

My name is Ivana Radič, I come from Croatia and this is my first time here.

I work for the Ministry of the Environment, Regional Planning and Construction, in the Spatial Planning Institute.

I am delighted to be taking part in this conference because my own area of professional interest is, in fact, the methodology of planning in relation to landscape and protected natural areas.

In Croatia, the value of landscape has been recognised within the spatial planning system. There is a chapter devoted to landscape in both the planning strategy (1997) and the programme (1999) – under the heading of heritage conservation.

In addition, in 1999 the Institute published a multi-authored work entitled “Landscape”, outlining the basic methods used for studying landscape in Croatia.

Croatia also signed the Florence Convention, and Parliament has since ratified it.

Other texts produced in Croatia deal with the subject of nature conservation and biological diversity as part of the process of implementing the “Strategy and action plan of the Croatian Republic for the protection of biological and landscape diversity (1999)”.

As you can see, we have worked hard – and successfully – in my country to achieve ratification of the European Landscape Convention.

Thank you.

APPENDIX 9

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

*by Mr Enrico BUERGI, President of the Conference of the European Landscape Convention,
on the occasion of the Convention's entry into force*

Ministers, Ambassadors, Director General, Director, ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by once again electing me to chair the conference, which this year marks the coming into force of the European Landscape Convention.

Four years have passed since the Convention was opened for signature and we have certainly covered a lot of ground since then. It is particularly encouraging to report that we have 13 ratifications and 29 signatures (with other countries due to sign in the very near future), that local and regional authorities have mobilised on an impressive scale, that we have the support of the voluntary sector and, most importantly, that the European Landscape Convention has generated a growing interest in landscape.

I should therefore like to thank all our partners and all those who have worked to spread the word about the Convention's importance throughout Europe and indeed beyond. In particular, I should like us to remember José Miguel Alonso Fernandez-Aceytuno, who took part in our workshops last November, with his tremendous commitment to the cause of landscape and to the idea that landscape is something we bequeath to our children.

Our programme today builds on the work begun at the first and second Conferences of Contracting and Signatory States to the Convention, in 2001 and 2002. You will recall that we expressed a wish to look in greater depth at certain of the Convention's provisions and to extend our interpretation of them. Four themes were identified in 2001 and three in 2002, and we now have the task of reviewing the work accomplished.

This conference on the occasion of the entry into force of the European Landscape Convention will therefore consider three themes:

- integration of landscape into international policies and programmes;
- landscape and individual and social well-being;
- landscape and spatial development.

At tomorrow's meeting we shall also have an opportunity to look at the work done so far, to consider how to pursue the implementation process and, in effect, to launch the good ship European Landscape Convention with the message that she bears.

APPENDIX 10

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPES WORKSHOP

1. LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Statement prepared by representatives of various organisations and workshops: C. Storelli, architect; F. Spingola; Professor G. Pizziolo; Professor R. Micarelli; Professor Maniglio-Calcagno; M. Ciumei; and Giovanni Bana, lawyer

Landscape workshops are bodies set up or developed by groups of people with expertise in various land-use related fields, which are recognised and supported by local authorities, and whose main purpose is to disseminate, interpret and apply the principles of the European Landscape Convention. The Mediterranean Landscapes Workshop is one such body and other examples include the PAN Workshop in Calabria, the Bellinzona Workshop and the Il Nibbio Foundation.

As a rule, the workshops are constituted as associations with their own statutes: different local authorities and other organisations are involved and cooperate within them. They are forums for the promotion of projects, territorial policies, research, experimentation and exchanges of ideas. To an extent they are also public forums that encourage contacts and facilitate training, as well as providing space for communication and experimentation.

Through the workshops named above, various events have been organised around different aspects of landscape as embodied in the Convention and the message it conveys. The events, which took place with the co-operation of university institutes, involved many different types of activity: research, information, the dissemination of ideas, and work on grassroots projects, ensuring in every case that there was a local presence so that people in the areas concerned could be involved in the studies, research and experiments. The workshops also serve as a point of reference for spatial development policies.

We submit these notes to the conference with the aim of raising awareness about the activities of the workshops, all of which operate at a local level, bearing in mind both the principle of subsidiarity and the eminently political nature of landscape-related activities. Results have already been achieved, particularly in the provision of information, which necessarily precedes participation, training and project development.

The workshops – whose leaders also direct their activities – are precisely the type of body envisaged by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (meeting from 25-27 May) in its recommendation and resolution on the contribution of local and regional authorities to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. These documents draw attention to the importance of monitoring the Convention, urging that local and regional authorities *assume the responsibilities* that it entrusts to them and advocating *the establishment of a Europe-wide network of local and regional authorities interested in disseminating knowledge [...] about the Convention.*

We have organised different types of events, we have been involved in – and have contributed to the success of – several conferences, and we have also been actively networking, ie exchanging the full range of our expertise and the results of our experiments in relation to the Convention.

We are ready to sustain this level of commitment throughout the implementation phase and during monitoring of the Convention's application.

2. THE WORKSHOPS NETWORK: A SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURE WITH AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION

Statement prepared by representatives of various organisations and workshops: C. Storelli, architect; F. Spingola; Professor G. Pizziolo; Professor R. Micarelli; Professor Maniglio-Calcagno; M. Ciumei; and Giovanni Bana, lawyer

The significance of the workshops, both as a tool for mass information and with regard to implementation of the European Landscape Convention, was explained in a separate document which we have already submitted to the meeting. The workshops network takes on even greater importance, however, in relation to the concept of landscape as such, its definition and scope. Article 2 stipulates that the Convention applies to the entire territory of Europe and covers all types of areas. A network linking different types of organisations for the purpose of exchanging ideas, cooperating on convergent themes and sharing methodology etc actually has the potential to become the next stage in our approach to landscape – through a process of comparison, through information gathering and through the development of theories and research. While individual workshops are feasible structures through which to monitor implementation of the Convention, especially given their local or regional character, the fact of linking them in a network makes them more appropriate to the task and more reflective of the European dimension. We need to communicate with one another and to reach the entire territory of Europe while at the same time respecting all those prerogatives pertaining to individual areas and countries. And just as each workshop creates space for dialogue and experimentation at local level, the network represents a similar type of space for the workshops collectively.

Because we collaborate with various workshops and other organisations in different countries, we have already taken the step of creating an International Landscape Association (the AIP), bringing our “local” organisations together, and this represents the beginning of a network. The concept of our association came out of a landscape conference in Cosenza in October 2003: it is both an association and a network, capable of expanding to embrace all interested parties, individuals or organisations, and all those countries that wish to take part. Outline statutes have also been drawn up, covering all the issues – including legal questions – necessary for our proper functioning.

The network is also an initial response to the call made by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) for the *initiative of an Observatory and the establishment of a Europe-wide network* which would *constitute a structure of coordination, assistance and support* (Resolution CG(11)12).

What we envisage would be a type of **forum**, based in Strasbourg, where representatives or delegates from the various workshops involved in recognised activities would monitor the implementation process and the ongoing work and exchange examples of different types of experience. All this would take place with the cooperation and support of the CLRAE, which is the body behind the European Landscape Convention. It is particularly important that the structure should be flexible, involving no additional bureaucracy, and that it should not have a centralising effect.

3. VALIDATING RESEARCH: AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF WHAT A WORKSHOP DOES

Contributed by representatives of various organisations and workshops: C. Storelli, architect; F. Spingola; Professor G. Pizziolo; Professor R. Micarelli; Professor Maniglio-Calcagno; and M. Ciumei

One particularly interesting recent experience involved looking more closely at a landscape workshop and seeing its work afforded official recognition. The workshop in question was that set up in Pescia by the area authority with support from various municipalities in the region. Entitled the Mediterranean Landscapes Workshop, it was formed in 1999 with the involvement of a number of

municipalities and associations. It has organised various training events, has taken part in an INTERREG programme and has promoted different projects. It mounted a successful awareness-raising campaign on the European Landscape Convention throughout the region, largely on the initiative of the Mayor of Pescia, Mr Ciumei, a convinced advocate of the Convention's message. On 21 and 22 February this year, following an international conference in Florence on the theme of innovation and continuity in relation to the European Landscape Convention, the Mediterranean Landscapes Workshop and the municipality of Pescia held a workshop on "The social perception of habitat", at which research was presented that had been carried out within the municipality. After hearing not only from the researchers but also from representatives of the municipalities affected by the study, a group of experts validated the research work. The entire proceedings, including the debates and discussions, have been recorded and are available on CD.

The extremely interesting and varied research work involved five months of activity on the ground, during which time it was possible to reconstruct (or in some cases construct) knowledge of the land and memories held by the people living there, who willingly made themselves available to the researchers. The research also identified the process that had produced the current pattern of life in the area and from which had emerged a set of values regarded as significant in relation to any activity on the land. Using an innovative method and an "improvised" strategy, the researchers established an extremely cooperative relationship with the local municipalities and administrations, resulting in what is termed a "shared project" (a prime example of democratic participation) and ultimately in the concept of **shared landscape**.

We believe that this research work and the validation process contain a range of ideas broad enough to draw on in establishing criteria for the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

For further information the following may be contacted:

researchers: Pizziolo/Micarelli/Giacomozzi/Rubino

experts: Zoido/D. Venti/A. Maniglio-Calcano/Storelli/Spingola

Bellinzona, 14 June 2004, Christiana Storelli, spokesperson

APPENDIX 11

STATEMENT

by Ms Ruzan ALAVERDYAN, Deputy Minister of urban Development of Armenia

Honourable Mr Chairman,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, on the occasion of European Landscape Convention entry into force, I would like to congratulate all of us and express my deep gratitude to those people, Secretariat, experts and especially to Mr. Chairman – Enrico Buergi, who have put their professional skills, diligence and souls into realization of this noble ideology.

I think, you'll agree with me that the Convention has a stressed humanitarian meaning. It is aimed at the comprehension of eternal and real values and at the same time it suggests consequent implementation of necessary measures for their protection, management, improvement, as well as for the creation of new qualitative environment.

Spatial planning and Landscape... how are these two concepts interconnected?

Mr. Zoido's report contains a detailed, scientifically based and most multilateral answer to this question.

In the light of the Convention the correlated consideration of spatial planning and landscape problems is called to discover more effective ways to reach the purpose quite important for any country. This purpose is to create harmonious and favourable environment / in the wide respect of this concept / for the present and coming generations.

The concept "Landscape" in the Convention reflects the idea that in the result of historical and human activities the landscapes are formulated as an integrity which natural and cultural vectors are perceived unique and not separated.

The characteristic of social- psychological influence of environment is of most importance which is also conditioned by influence of natural, as well as of created volumetrical-spatial environments conducting to the formulation and development of a person's world perception.

Such mutual involvement is conditioned by the fact that the society environment is formed with the influence of each landscape, which has a substantial meaning among the qualitative evaluation of life.

The three main elements of Landscape policy contain the following associative notions:

Preservation / or inviolability / - past

Management / or practical coordination / - present

Planning / or creative stimulus / - future

So the improvement of spoilt landscapes and the creation of new ones inevitably brings to the meaning of dominant role of spatial planning processes. Returning to the objectives of settlements, and particularly towns urban development, it is necessary to mention that these, being constantly substantial component of human history, today must gain the society's attention which is conditioned by the continuous increase of the urban population number in the world.

We must remember that the present generation creates today the environment where the future generations will live. Everybody has a right to live in a favourable environment. Spatial and landscape planning are the means of creation of this environment, the necessary condition which provides the

formation of this environment agreed to the state, public and private interests acting in the economic system.

Let me describe in several words the cornerstones of localization of landscape and spatial planning ideology in our country.

Armenia is one of the centres of the ancient civilization – with its unique nature and historical and cultural heritage.

The ways of sustainable spatial and landscape development are multifunctional and need using of some synergic methods.

Naturally, now it is hardly possible to outline all problems which prove the urgent necessity of improvement of spatial and landscape planning policies in our country.

The fact that Armenia has signed the Convention among the first countries certainly states our readiness to value and follow its main concepts.

I'd like to notice, that being a complex system itself, the solution of mentioned problems is more overloaded in Armenia now days because of physical characteristics of the territory of our country, as well as the problems typical to transition economy.

Therefore I'm sure that the Council of Europe's contribution to the processes of the strategies elaborated by the Armenian authorities in that field will give a new force in the respect of the development of country and the integration to the European partnership.

I'd like to finish my speech with following expression mentioned in the Convention: "The quality and diversity of European Landscape is a general resource and it is necessary to cooperate in problems of landscape protection, management and planning".

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX 12

STATEMENT

presented by Ms Emilie DROEVEN, Representative of Belgium

Landscape areas of Wallonia, an initial fact-finding exercise with a view to implementation of the European Landscape Convention in the Walloon Region

Emilie Droeven & Magali Kummert (researchers)
supervised by Professor Claude Feltz
Conférence permanente du développement territorial (CPDT)
droeven.e@fsagx.ac.be kummert.m@fsagx.ac.be

The Walloon Region ratified the European Landscape Convention on 21 December 2001. A first step towards implementation of the Convention has been taken by the Conférence permanente du développement territorial (CPDT) [Standing Conference on Spatial Development].

The CPDT, established in 1998, is a multi-disciplinary body and an important network for applied research. Its work is directed and coordinated by the Government of the Walloon Region.

The CPDT brings together most of the Region's ministerial departments as well as the three main French-speaking universities on a multi-annual research programme. With more than 40 researchers to call upon, it provides the Walloon Region with an effective decision-making tool in the field of spatial planning.³

A research programme on spatial management of the environment has been ongoing since 2001, and research on landscape has been carried out as part of the work.

This is the framework within which a team of researchers and an associated committee – chaired by Mireille Deconinck (of the Development and Urban Planning Division) and comprising representatives of university institutions and administrative and other public bodies – has drawn up a map of landscape areas of Wallonia, thus pursuing the aim of landscape identification in the meaning of Article 6(c) of the European Landscape Convention.

The approach to landscape under which the landscape areas of Wallonia were mapped is a direct reflection of the European Landscape Convention, with landscape defined as people's perception of a territory – its relief and form, and then the nature of the vegetation and human settlement.

In order to characterise the many different landscapes of Wallonia, it was decided to identify "landscape areas", each comprising a number of landscape units with similar features.

The chosen mapping scale was 1/50 000. This allowed the territory of Wallonia to be considered in its entirety while at the same time offering sufficient precision for detailed and specific analysis of statutory land zoning, which is the main planning tool in the Walloon Region.

The landscape areas were identified in stages. The first step was to study relief (main and secondary forms, altitude and shape) and land use (the expression of interactions between the substratum, the plant and animal life and human activity), thus providing a basis for the systematic classification of landscapes throughout Wallonia (a surface area of 16 644 km²). A study of habitat characteristics then enabled the initial classification to be refined. Finally the analysis was validated through a process of local consultation.

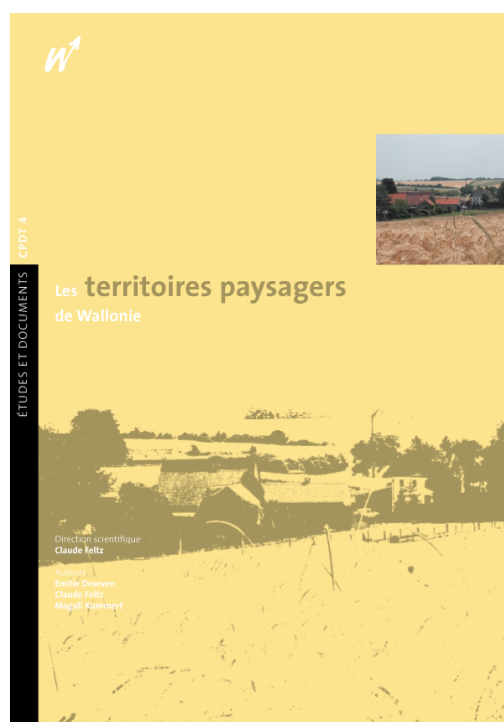
³ All information concerning the CPDT may be accessed on the Internet at: cpdt.wallonie.be

The mapping resulted in the division of Wallonia into 76 landscape areas, grouped under 13 headings.

The map of landscape areas in Wallonia is accompanied by a catalogue briefly describing each of them. The results have been published in a document entitled *Les territoires paysagers de Wallonie* [Landscape areas of Wallonia], which is available from the publishing division of the Ministry for the Walloon Region.⁴

On the basis of the map of landscape areas, the next steps in the research will involve closer description of the landscape morphologies within each area, reconstruction of how the landscapes were moulded and a study of the factors that make them productive.

Subsequently, after looking at the processes and pressures currently affecting landscape, the different landscapes will be classified and “heritage landscapes” will be identified, with the intention of handing these on to future generations. The research work will also focus on designing land management measures tailored to each type of landscape.



⁴ Contact to request the CPDT publication *Etudes et Documents n°4: Les territoires paysagers de Wallonie*, Feltz, Droeven & Kummert (2004)
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APPENDIX 13

LIST OF DOCUMENTS⁵

- Draft Programme of the Conference (*T-FLOR (2004) 1 rev.*)
- Integration of the landscape into international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes (*T-FLOR (2004) 2*)
- Landscapes and individual and social well-being (*T-FLOR (2004) 3*)
- Landscape and spatial planning (*T-FLOR (2004) 4*)

Documents from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe:

- Recommendation 150 (2004) on the contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention
- Resolution 178 (2004) on the contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention
- The contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention CG (11)12 Part II

⁵ List of documents available on the site:
http://www.coe.int/T/F/Cooperation_culturelle/Environnement/paysage/Mise_en_oeuvre/Programme/03_Conference_2004.asp (CTRL+click to follow the link)