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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE

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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDPATEP

5th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

REPORT

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
30-31 March 2009

*Secretariat document
Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009

Opening session

1. Introductory speeches

The meeting was opened by Mrs Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. She welcomed the participants, the list of whom can be found in Appendix 1 to this report. The text of her introductory speech is contained in Appendix 2 (1) to this report.

Mr Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI, Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Group of Rapporteurs on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C), Representative of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (2) to this report.

Mrs Gaye DOGANOGLU, Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (3) to this report.

Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Chair of the 4th Conference on the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (4) to this report.

Mrs Nataša BRATINA JURKOVIĆ, former Deputy Chair of the 4th Conference on the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (5) to this report.

Mr Bruno FAVEL, Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe, was unable to participate in the conference and forwarded to the Secretariat an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (6) to this report.

Mr Andreas STALDER, Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (7) to this report.

Mr Audun MOFLAG, Representative of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference of the Council of Europe of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) to the CDPATEP, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (8) to this report.

The Chair of the Standing Committee of the Berne Convention had apologised for his absence.

Mrs Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Chair of the Sustainable Territorial Development Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, gave an introductory speech, the text of which is contained in Appendix 2 (9) to this report.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 1]

The Conference decided to postpone the item on the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Conference to the second day and asked the Secretariat to request nominations for both posts.

The agenda as set out in Appendix 3 was adopted.

3. Preparation of the elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference

The following nominations were presented:

– *Candidates for Chair of the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention*

The delegates of Portugal and Romania proposed that the term of office of Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, representative of France, be extended.

The representative of the Netherlands nominated Mrs Pavlina MIŠIKOVÁ, representative of Slovakia.

– *Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair of the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention*

The delegates of Romania and Norway nominated Mrs Maria-José FESTAS, delegate of Portugal.

4. Terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP)

Mr Daniel THEROND, Deputy Director, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, reminded the meeting of the terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), adopted on 30 January 2008 and revised on 16 September 2008. He said the CDPATEP should have two faces that were inseparable from one another, combining cultural heritage and landscape, and that it was consequently desirable for governments to have dual representation.

He also pointed out that the terms of reference provided that “(a)s regards the follow-up to the European Landscape Convention, the CDPATEP shall also take into account the work of the periodic Council of Europe conferences on the European Landscape Convention and other work by appropriate experts”. He said the 5th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention was along the lines of the previous conferences organised by the Council and that, according to the usual rules, in the event of a vote only the Contracting Parties to the Convention were invited to participate.

Session 1 – Follow-up of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

5. Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 2]

The Conference:

– took note of the fact that the explanatory report to the Convention had been drawn up under the authority of the Council of Europe Secretariat and thus currently had historical value;

– considered that Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 February 2008 at the 1017th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies), currently represented a guide that would help progress to be made on implementing the Convention.

6. Landscape policies in the member states of the Council of Europe

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 3 – Presentation of the Status of Landscape Policies in the Member States of the Council of Europe]

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, thanked the states that had been kind enough to send her information on their landscape policies and said that the document entitled “*Presentation of the Status of Landscape Policies in the Member States of the Council of Europe*” had been finalised with the replies received to the questionnaire and was to be found in its updated form on the Council of Europe website. The information would be included in the Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention at the European Landscape Observatory currently being set up.

The Conference noted that the document would detail the Parties’ progress on implementing the Convention and called on states that had not yet done so to fill in the questionnaire as soon as possible.

7. Guiding Principles for a Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention and Draft Decision

[Document for examination: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 4 – Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention – Links with HEREIN and Draft Decision]

Mr Yves LUGINBHÜL, Council of Europe expert, presented the Guiding Principles for a Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention and a draft decision.

The Conference participants felt it would be helpful to:

- establish links with databases relating to landscape monitoring posts and centres and with other non-governmental organisations;
- open a forum to the NGOs and make progress on the preparation of a glossary;
- analyse spatial development plans and issues associated with local and regional self-government;
- distinguish between passive and active information, which required validation;
- consider the availability of accessible databases, such as Wikipedia.

The Parties to the Convention pointed to the need to:

- set up two forums, one between the States Parties to the Convention and the other in association with local and regional authorities and NGOs;
- take account of the CEMAT Spatial Development Glossary, which had been validated;
- describe the Interreg projects and other European Union programmes and other international organisations;
- present duly validated information at this site;
- address the issue of the funding of the work carried out;
- set up a working group tasked with continuing the development of the European Landscape Convention’s official website;
- amend paragraph 5 of the draft decision of the CDPATEP to replace “Adopts” by “Takes note”;
- forward to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) the draft decision of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Observatory, contained in Appendix 4.

8. General report of activities 2007-2009

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 5]

The Conference took note with satisfaction of the general report of activities 2007-2009. The aims of the activities carried out by the Council of Europe’s Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division had been to:

- ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- promote European co-operation;

- collect examples of good practices;
- promote knowledge and research;
- raise awareness;
- foster access to information.

The Conference expressed the hope that all Council of Europe member states would sign and ratify the Convention.

9. Meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 6]

The Conference took note with interest of the conclusions of the meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention held in 2007-2008:

- Conclusions of the sixth meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Landscape and rural heritage*” (Sibiu, Romania, 20-21 September 2007), presented by Mrs Cristina HERTIA, representative of Romania, and Mr Mauro AGNOLETTI, who had drawn up the conclusions of the meeting in his capacity as Council of Europe expert (Appendix 5);
- General conclusions and closing presentation of the 7th meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management*” (Piestany, Slovakia, 24-25 April 2008), presented by Mrs Pavlina MIŠIKOVÁ, representative of Slovakia (Appendix 6).

The Conference participants particularly thanked the governments of Romania and Slovakia for their exceptional welcome on the occasion of these two meetings.

The Council of Europe representative said that the proceedings of the sixth meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention had been published in the Council of Europe’s Spatial Planning and Landscape Series (No. 88, 2009) and that the proceedings of the 7th meeting would be published shortly.

The Conference participants also took note of the fact that the 8th meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention would be held in Malmö/Arnarp, Sweden, on 8-9 October 2009 on “*Landscape and driving forces*”. Mr Jerker MOSTRÖM, representative of Sweden, said his country was looking forward to hosting the meeting, which would be dealing with major factors that impacted on the landscape.

10. National information seminars on the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 10 – Interventions by Parties and observer States]

The representative of Andorra reported on the favourable action taken in response to the national information seminar on the European Landscape Convention held in Andorra la Vella, Principality of Andorra, on 4-5 June 2007, the proceedings of which had been published in the Council of Europe’s Spatial Planning and Landscape Series (No. 85, 2008), and announced that a meeting on landscape would be held in the near future.

11. Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 7]

With regard to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies, the Conference took note of the fact that it had been translated into a

number of languages (Armenian, Croatian, Finnish and Hungarian) and that all Council of Europe member states were invited to translate it into their own national language(s) and forward the translations to the Secretariat so that they could be put on the European Landscape Convention website.

As far as the procedure for making the award is concerned, the Conference took note of the following items of information:

- on 9 June 2008, the Parties to the Convention had been invited to submit nominations to the Council of Europe Secretariat;
- the nomination files had been forwarded to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representatives of the Parties to the Convention by 31 December 2008;
- the Council of Europe Secretariat had received eight nominations from the following Parties: Spain, France, Turkey, Finland, Italy, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary;
- an international jury established as a subordinate body of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) would be meeting on 7 May 2009 to propose a winner of the award from among the nominees. It could also propose making one or more special mentions;
- at its 2nd meeting (Strasbourg, 12-13 May 2009), the CDPATEP would examine the jury's proposals concerning the winner of the award and, if appropriate, the special mentions, and submit them to the Committee of Ministers;
- on the basis of the CDPATEP's proposals, the Committee of Ministers would make the award and any special mentions;
- the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with the participation of the Chair of the CDPATEP and the Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention or their representative(s), would present the award and special mentions at a public ceremony to be held in the country in which an authority had received the award;
- all the nominees would be displayed on the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention website in a new section devoted to the European Landscape Award;
- the nominees that had received an award or special mention would be introduced at a ceremony commemorating the opening of the Convention for signature.

12. Information on some recent Council of Europe meetings concerning spatial planning and cultural heritage

The representative of the Council of Europe Secretariat mentioned the titles of three other major conferences that had been held since 2007 by the Council of Europe's Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division in co-operation with the host countries and on the occasion of which it had been possible to present the European Landscape Convention:

- Conference on "*International conventions and major texts for heritage*", Vilnius, Lithuania, 11-12 October 2007;
- International CEMAT Symposium on "*Challenges and strategies for metropolises and metropolitan regions in a context of growing globalisation with regard to economic, social, environmental and cultural development*", St Petersburg, 26-27 June 2008;
- International CEMAT Symposium on "*The spatial dimension of human rights: for a new vision of the territory*", Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 October 2008.

13. Report on "Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention"

[Document for examination: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 8]

The Conference took note with great interest of the document "*Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in EU and non-EU Members*"

drawn up by Mr Burkardt KOLBMULLER, as a Council of Europe expert, and examined by a select working group of the Council of Europe chaired by Mr Jean-François SEGUIN (reports of the meetings of 28 January and 15 September 2008 in: T-FLOR (2008) 3 and 5).

The Parties to the Convention proposed that the document be translated into French.

14. Draft Resolution

[Document for examination: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 9]

The Conference examined *Draft Resolution (2009).. of the Committee of Ministers on the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention and the European Community*”, which would be presented to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) for consideration.

The Conference participants:

- noted that the impact studies carried out pursuant to Community law embraced the landscape dimension;
- wanted the draft resolution to mention environment, infrastructure and water policies too.

The representative of Slovakia said it was desirable to invite the European Community to accede to the European Landscape Convention.

The Parties to the Convention decided to forward to the CDPATEP Draft Resolution (2009).. of the Committee of Ministers on the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention and the European Community”, as it appears in Appendix 7 hereto.

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Official Reception in the Blue Restaurant of the Palais de l'Europe.

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TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2009

Session 2 – Actions for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

15. Presentation of actions carried out by the Parties to the Convention at national, regional and local levels for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 10 – Interventions by Parties and observer States]

The delegations present at the Conference were invited to submit communications.

Secretariat Note: the full versions of written texts submitted to the Secretariat have been included in the above-mentioned document, which has been updated and is available on the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention website.

The representative of Armenia expressed her country's interest in the European Landscape Convention and in measures to implement it. She drew particular attention to the work recently carried out with the hosting in Yerevan of the International CEMAT Symposium on “*The spatial dimension of human rights: for a new vision of the territory*” organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Armenian Ministry of Urban Development (Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 October 2008).

The representative of Belgium mentioned the work done on producing the Landscape Atlas and reported on the partnerships entered into to promote implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The representative of Croatia mentioned the review of the biodiversity and landscape strategy, the revised law on the cultural heritage and the Brijuni conference on urban and open spaces in 2008, organised with architects. She noted that inter-sectoral work had been carried out to draw up a typology. An article on transfrontier co-operation was being prepared with the representative of Hungary for the next issue of the magazine *Futuropa*, which was to be devoted to that subject.

The representative of the Czech Republic said a conference would be held in May 2009 on the local implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The representative of Finland said the national landscape competition held with a view to submitting Finland's candidature for the Council of Europe's Landscape Award had proved extremely positive. One candidature had been selected from the 21 received. Media participation had made it possible to show the impact of the Convention.

The representative of France mentioned two series of initiatives: the first concerned the implementation of Article 5c of the Convention through procedures for the participation of the 100 French *départements* with all the public and private players and the establishment of the National Landscape Council, whose purpose was to advise the minister responsible for landscape policy; the second concerned Article 6c of the Convention, with exchanges of experiences and the continuation of the transfrontier workshops with the Walloon Region, Italy, the United Kingdom and the *Generalitat* of Catalonia. A European colloquy on the Photographic Observatory of the Landscape had also been held.

The representative of Hungary said that three ministries had established machinery for co-ordinating landscape policies and that Hungary had carried out a national selection procedure for submitting a candidature for the Council of Europe's Landscape Award. In that connection, an exhibition had been held in Hungary with the candidatures submitted, with the participation of numerous local and regional authorities and scientific institutions.

In the case of Ireland, it was mentioned that a major conference would be held there to present examples of good practices in connection with landscape management, farming projects and tourism and that a national Irish strategy would be discussed on that occasion.

The representative of Italy said the Ministry of Cultural Heritage had taken on board the principles of the European Landscape Convention and established institutional responsibilities. Landscape was now no longer considered exclusively from the point of view of protection but also concerned territorial development, and the new code incorporated the provisions of the Convention. A strategic plan for the cultural heritage had been drawn up and landscape resources were now regarded as being of strategic importance for rural areas. The policy of the ministry's Directorate General was based on the need to promote quality objectives focusing on new territorial measures. Italy had submitted a nomination for the Council of Europe Landscape Award. A network of organisations was developing in the country, as was archiving work and the consolidation of projects supporting the implementation of the Convention. A website with structured information had been set up for the Landscape Award. The award chosen had symbolic value and sought to promote innovative and balanced management. A dialogue had been initiated with more than 100 organisations. The landscape dimension in the rural context had also been developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and a catalogue of exceptional landscapes was currently being produced in order to promote and highlight the measures taken. The delegate from Italy said her government was proposing to host a ceremony in Florence to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the European Landscape Convention

for signature. The Tuscany Region would be involved in that initiative, as would a number of organisations.

The representative of the Council of Europe Secretariat warmly thanked the Italian delegation for its proposal, pointing out that the meeting would be planned as part of the work programme of the European Landscape Convention.

The representative of Latvia said her country was going to continue its work on implementing the Convention.

The representative of Lithuania said her country was going to continue its work on implementing the Convention.

The representative of Moldova said the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources had introduced references to landscape into its laws and that there was a problem regarding the availability of the financial resources needed for their implementation. Government plans had been adopted but there was a lack of funds. An agreement had been signed with the Council of Europe to promote an ecological network, the restoration of historical monuments for the benefit of tourism and the development of town planning.

The representative of the Netherlands described the work carried out with the law on physical planning, the countryside agenda, the “Beautiful Netherlands” project, the architecture and spatial design project, the Triennale Apeldoorn and the completed “Wider View” project. The state was encouraging civil society and had promoted a water resources plan. The Triennale Apeldoorn had above all ended with a meeting of NGOs and the adoption of the Apeldoorn Accord and a document on the “Radio Kootwijk Frequency”. Other work had also been carried out: the Landscape and Leisure project had been successfully completed with 31 schools, and a published work entitled *Greetings from Europe* showed that tourism was a major force. Leisure should be considered a fundamental right and it would be necessary to set up a working group tasked with drawing up a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on the subject.

The representative of Norway said his was a stretched out, sparsely populated country and focused on everyday landscapes. The aim of the work being carried out was to raise awareness and promote methods of implementing the Convention with local and regional plans, with reference to Article 6 of the Convention. It was hoped that the work would achieve positive results.

The representative of Poland said her country had ratified the Convention in 2004 but that, apart from nature conservation laws, environmental impact studies and spatial planning, there was as yet no special law that specifically took full account of those issues. It was planned to introduce landscape issues into new legal instruments and documents currently being drawn up.

The representative of Portugal reported on her country’s basic laws governing land use and said the Portuguese constitution referred to landscape. It was now recognised that the state should develop landscapes to improve the environment and quality of life. Several reference texts should be mentioned in that connection, including the Fundamental Law on the Environment, of 1987, and the Fundamental Law on Spatial Planning and the Protection of Natural Assets, of 1998. Legislation on protected areas and landscapes and on spatial planning programmes and policies should enable land development plans to be drawn up. Work on identifying landscape units was ongoing and four urban landscapes had been recognised by UNESCO as world cultural landscapes. The ministry had in particular worked with the University of Evora.

The representative of Romania mentioned the difficulties encountered in the implementation of genuine landscape policies. The Ministry of Culture had been given responsibility for implementing the Convention. It was necessary to introduce the landscape component into urban planning and to provide for the appropriate funding for those projects. The Council of Europe should support the work

being done to ensure the appropriate implementation of the Convention. There were two universities that offered landscape studies but the profession of landscape architect did not exist as such and support should be provided for the recognition of the profession with the help of EFLA and IFLA. The UNDP had contributed to the work, especially with regard to castles, and work was ongoing with IFLA and ICOMOS to draw up legislation on the rehabilitation of UNESCO sites and help Moldova with regard to the recognition of cultural landscapes. Proposals had been made to include provisions enshrining the landscape dimension in legislation in 2009 and 2010. Romania and Bulgaria had structural funds at their disposal but the local authorities were not sufficiently informed about the deployment of these funds and about ways of working together.

The representative of Slovakia said that an information campaign had been conducted in Slovakia with the distribution of brochures, that the office responsible for providing information on the Council of Europe had contributed to it and that work had begun on organising information seminars. A project entitled “Landscape Typology” had been launched and cultural landscapes had been included. Slovakia had members in the non-governmental organisations RECEP, UNISCAPE and CIVILSCAPE, all of which were working for the benefit of landscape. Slovakia was active in the OECD’s work on environmental performance and had proposed the inclusion of landscape issues. A conference on landscape, humankind and culture would be held in May, and information would be given on the achievements of the regions. Approaches needed to be integrated and the Ministry of Economic Affairs had shown an interest in the subject with regard to the measures to be carried out in connection with tourism. In that regard, it was essential to include landscape issues in regional planning policies.

The representative of Slovenia said she was working for the establishment of parks in regional planning policies. A booklet on landscape had been published in Slovenian and sent to local authorities, and a prize had been inaugurated for regional planning in conjunction with landscape issues. Several important texts on strategic planning should be mentioned.

The representative of Spain said her country had ratified the Convention in 2007 and it had entered into force in 2008. The Ministries of Culture and the Environment had worked together on ensuring its ratification and implementation. The Convention text had been published in Spanish and two other languages spoken in the country, and there had been active co-operation with the autonomous communities. There was a reference to landscape in many laws, especially those relating to the natural heritage. Considerable efforts had been made to select Spain’s candidate for the Council of Europe’s Landscape Award, and San Sebastian had been nominated. The representative of Catalonia described an educational project on landscape carried out by the *Generalitat* of Catalonia and said a conference on that extremely important subject would be held shortly. The Director of the Andalusia Centre for Landscape and Territory Studies reported on an official request that had been sent to the Council of Europe by the Andalusian Regional Government’s Ministry of Public Works and Transport Government and was supported by the Spanish Government to hold the 9th meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on the subject of “Landscape and Infrastructure” in Malaga in 2010.

The representative of the Council of Europe Secretariat warmly thanked the Spanish delegation for its proposal and said the meeting would be included in the work programme of the European Landscape Convention.

The representative of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” said a territorial development strategy was being drawn up and that co-operation was continuing with Albania and Greece.

The representative of Turkey said the Ministry of the Environment had undertaken various activities for the implementation of the Convention and that workshops and pilot projects had been carried out and completed in 2008. Other national and local projects, including awareness campaigns, were currently under way. Turkey had also selected a candidate for the Council of Europe’s Landscape Award.

The representative of Ukraine reported on the current programmes carried out by the government and on the existing laws. A draft law was being drawn up.

The United Kingdom representative described the project being conducted by the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), which had carried out the policy implementing the European Landscape Convention at the national level. The Department chaired the UK Co-ordination Group comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A joint Natural England/English Heritage project group had been set up with Defra. The work sought to promote a forward-looking, democratic, participatory, inclusive and realistic approach with the aim of influencing regional planning in a sustainable development context, developing a sense of belonging and working with politicians. A Framework for Implementation in England had been set up. Account should be taken of the spirit and objectives of the Convention. Models for action, plans and guidelines were available at the Landscape Character Network website. The implementation of the Convention offered great potential opportunities.

The representative of Serbia said her country had signed the Convention and intended to ratify it. In particular, she described the role of the existing legislation and the conference on landscape that had been organised with ECLAS in 2007 and had dealt with the question of moving from theory to practice.

The representative of the Holy See said the Holy See had devoted attention to the environment since 1989 and supported government efforts to protect the natural and landscape heritage. A “Time for God’s Creation”, involving ecumenical celebrations to promote the natural heritage and education, had been held in the autumn. A “Living differently” initiative had been launched to propose changes in consumption expenditure based on the principles of sustainable development, fair trade and solidarity. Landscape fell within the context of the concerns about climate warming and the Vatican had fitted some rooms with photovoltaic panels.

16. Presentation of the actions carried out by international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations dedicated to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 11 – Interventions by international governmental and non-governmental organisations]]

Secretariat Note: the full versions of written texts submitted to the Secretariat have been included in the above-mentioned document. They have been supplemented and updated and are available at the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention website.

The Secretary of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention described the work done in the context of the Alpine Convention and proposed considering the possibility of promoting co-operation between that Convention and the European Landscape Convention.

The representative of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) said that an international group had chosen landscape as the best vehicle for accomplishing the work. Certification work had been carried out and the ecological, economic, social and cultural role of forests had now been recognised. The diversity of forests and their differences in density should be acknowledged. A meeting would be held in Florence in October 2009 in order to deal with those issues.

The Il Nibbio representative described the work of the Summer University on landscape in co-operation with the local authorities in the Province of Como. Work had been carried out with the authorities on the spot and local people had been informed. The 6th Summer University in 2009 would be devoted to landscape, hospitality and the gastronomic heritage. Reports on the work carried out during the previous summer universities had been published.

The representative of the Tuscany-based Mediterranean Landscape Workshop described the work carried out on implementing the European Landscape Convention in the context of the RuralMed II project, the aim of which had been to promote a new awareness of landscape associated with the social dimension. A new alliance was being promoted to ensure high-quality landscape research. The New Alliance project, involving the public and the various players, was being carried out in 2008-2009 and aimed to bring about co-operation on promoting a vibrant environment through a "Landscape participative contract".

The *Cittá del Vino* representative spoke about the importance for Europe of viticultural landscapes as a unique factor for competitiveness, landscapes that were currently affected by urban sprawl. The Association of Italian Wine-Growing Towns had been set up in order to have legal and political instruments at its disposal. Biodiversity concerns alone were no guarantee that landscape dimensions would be taken into account, and it was important to approach the local authorities. He gave as an example the opening a bottle, an action which of itself evoked a landscape. It was therefore necessary to address the issues relating to the warp and woof of the landscape, draw up rules and reach a consensus between the local stakeholders, since a beautiful landscape added value to a wine.

The representative of the European Council of Spatial Planners thought the European Landscape Convention and the work done in the context of CEMAT gave landscape meaning and substance. It was necessary to ensure that spatial development plans were prudent and that they respected landscape as a source of identity. The economic recovery should not promote the pursuit of short-term profit, which would override sustainable development. For example, it had been proposed that the formal assent of the Chief Government Architects of France should no longer be required for construction projects, and it was crucial to oppose the measure.

The representative of the European Landscape Observatory of Arco Latino said the observatory had been proposed in May 2007 and that 77 local authorities from four countries were involved. An agreement to promote landscape had been concluded with the mayors. He supported the commitment to foster the Convention and proposed holding a workshop with all the landscape observatories.

The representative of CIVILSCAPE said his organisation had set up a network of non-governmental organisations working to protect the landscape and that he would shortly be participating in the conference in the Czech Republic.

The representative of Rurality-Environment-Development spoke about his organisation's interest in local players and said landscape should be fully integrated into spatial development projects and not be treated as a side issue. Responsibility for dealing with the landscape dimension should be given to a permanent body funded by local authorities, and landscape projects should be regularly monitored. A body of case law was needed that would assist in the decision-making process; it was also necessary to promote a return to visual aspects with CDs and other tools that encouraged citizen participation. That approach should be included in the proposals made to the European Union.

The representative of EUROPARC said his organisation was a major network of protected areas and could contribute to promoting the landscape dimension.

The representative of the Cambridge Centre for Landscape and People said the main reason for setting up the centre had been to promote the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and that the emphasis of its work was on agriculture (with the finalisation on 27 and 28 September of the EUCALAND project), coastal zones and hidden spaces, as well as on spiritual values and human rights.

The EFLA representative said her organisation grouped together 29 or so associations operating to promote landscape education and practical action. Her organisation fully supported the implementation of the Convention. The Convention's broad and holistic approach was particularly

admired as the aim was to foster a strategic vision of the future by developing landscape awareness, assessing the state of an area and promoting a design likely to create quality spaces for all. It was a question of recognising the importance of the profession of the landscape architect for the implementation of the Convention and working with professionals on ensuring that the Convention became well-established.

The UNISCAPE representative said the Convention was very vibrant and many universities were involved in its promotion. A network of 51 universities had been set up and a meeting was due to take place in Andalusia in May with directors of MA courses in landscape studies. In that connection, account should be taken of ECLAS's call to make training courses more interdisciplinary.

The ENELC representative described the network, its origins and the work it had carried out. The important thing was to co-ordinate work with Eurolandscape and the information at the website.

3bis. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference (resumption of item 3)

The representative of Slovakia said she was withdrawing her candidature for Chair of the Conference.

At the Secretariat's request, the Parties to the Convention went on to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference.

The Parties to the Convention elected by consensus Mr Jean-François SEGUIN Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention for a second term.

The Parties to the Convention elected by consensus Mrs Maria-José FESTAS Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.

Mr Jean-François SEGUIN and the representative of Portugal thanked the States Parties to the Convention for the confidence placed in them.

Session 3 – Other work carried out on landscape education, training and awareness-raising

17. Education

The Conference participants noted with great interest the report on "Landscape and education of children" drawn up and presented by Mrs Benedetta CASTIGLIONI in her capacity as a Council of Europe expert [*Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 12 - the conclusions of this document are reproduced in the Appendix 8 (1) of this report*].

18. Training

The Conference participants noted with great interest the report on "Training of landscape architects" drawn up and presented by Mrs Ingrid SARLOV HERLIN in her capacity as a Council of Europe expert [*Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 13 - the conclusions of this document are reproduced in the Appendix 8 (2) of this report*].

19. Promotion of knowledge and research

The Conference participants noted with great interest:

- the report drawn up and presented by Mr Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert on "European Local Landscape Circle Studies" [*Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 14 - the conclusions of this document are reproduced in the Appendix 8 (3) of this report*];

- the report drawn up and presented by Mrs Chantal PRADINES, Council of Europe expert on “Road infrastructures: tree-lined avenues in the landscape” [*Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 15 - the conclusions of this document are reproduced in the Appendix 8 (4) of this report*];
- the report drawn up and presented by Mrs Marina KULESHOVA et Mrs Tamara SEMENOVA, Council of Europe experts on “Landscapes and Ethics” [*Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 16 - the conclusions of this document are reproduced in the Appendix 8 (5) of this report*].

20. Awareness-raising

The Conference participants noted with great interest the work on the publication of the magazine “*Futuropa: for a new vision of landscape and territory*”, which had taken over from the *Naturopa* magazine and included sustainable spatial development issues, embracing the landscape dimension of an area and its natural and cultural assets.

The Secretariat pointed out that the first issue had been devoted to “*Vernacular rural habitat, a heritage in our landscape*” (Futuropa no. 1, 2008) and that the second issue, currently in preparation, would be devoted to “*Landscape and Transfrontier Co-operation*” (Futuropa no. 2).

21. Access to information

The Conference participants took note of the fact the European Landscape Convention website <http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropennedupaysage/> www.coe.int/Europeanlandscapeconvention would soon be updated following the appointment of a new member of staff to the Council of Europe Secretariat.

22. Publications – Draft Resolution on an editorial board

[*Document for information: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 17*]

The Conference held that the Bureau of the CDPATEP already did the work of an editorial board for the European Landscape Convention and did not consider it necessary to adopt a draft resolution on the subject.

* * *

Presentation of the IHPE Exhibition – Heritage and Landscape

The Secretariat said that the award ceremony for the prize-winners of the 13th International Heritage Photographic Experience (IHPE), launched by Catalonia (Spain) in 1992, had been held at the Council of Europe on 5 December 2008 in the presence of the participating states’ representatives to the Council of Europe. More than 19,600 young people from 49 countries had taken part in the latest awards.

The photographs, exhibited in the foyer of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, were described by Mr Estève MACH BOSCH, IHPE Co-ordinator, who pointed out that the Council of Europe-sponsored initiative fitted into the ongoing process of the European Heritage Days and that it had been opened up to the landscape dimension mentioned in the European Landscape Convention. It enabled young people to become aware of the richness of their heritage, their history and their environment, past and present. In 2008, the IHPE had been awarded the Heritage Prizes medal by the European Commission and Europa Nostra.

The participants took note with great interest of this statement and of the IHPE exhibition on “Heritage and Landscape”.

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Session 4 – Follow-up and perspectives

23. Programme of activities for 2009-2010

[Document for information: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 18]

The Conference discussed the draft Programme of activities for 2009-2010.

The representative of the Netherlands said he hoped a draft text could be prepared on the subject of tourism and leisure in the landscape context. The representative of the Czech Republic proposed mentioning the title of the Czech national seminar on the European Landscape Convention to be held in the Czech Republic in May 2009. The ECOVAST representative proposed a system of inter-state twinnings.

The Parties to the Conference thought that the CDPATEP could at its next meeting follow up the questions discussed in connection with the draft Programme of activities for 2009-2010.

24. Other business

Closing session

25. Conclusions of the Conference

by the Chair of the Conference

Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Chair of the Conference, presented the following conclusions of the Conference, which were approved by the participants.

The members of the 5th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, meeting at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg on 30 and 31 March 2009:

- *Welcome* the vibrant nature of the European Landscape Convention and the progress made on ratifications and signatures. The national reports presented by the Parties show that the Convention is having a more and more substantive impact;
- *Express* the desire to encourage new ratifications and signatures. As a result of the requests made by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, it will be possible to better appreciate the efforts made by states to sign and ratify the Convention;
- *Point out* that the meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention provide a good opportunity for communication between the Parties to the Convention and states in the process of signing;
- *Appreciate* the Swedish Government's offer to host the 8th meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on 8 and 9 October 2009 on "*Landscape and driving forces*" and the joint offer by the Spanish Government and Andalusia to host the 9th meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2010 on "*Landscape and Infrastructure*";
- *Welcome* the establishment of the following instruments for the implementation of the Convention:
 - the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
 - the Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;

- the establishment of the intergovernmental committee charged with its implementation, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP);
 - the project to establish a European Landscape Observatory as an information-sharing tool and a monitoring instrument; note that the proposed guiding principles of this information system will be amended in the light of the contributions and observations made during the Conference and presented at the next CDPATEP meeting; point out that the continuation of this project will enable links with spatial planning, heritage preservation and nature protection to be strengthened. Government representatives, local and regional authorities, NGOs and experts will be involved in this work;
- *Note* that the report on the opportunities provided by the European Union programmes for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention has been adopted and that the draft recommendation, revised following the observations made, especially on the level of the contacts to be established with the European Commission, will be forwarded to the CDPATEP;
- *Consider* that relations between the Conference and the CDPATEP will have to be strengthened;
- *Welcome* very much the Italian Government's proposal to hold a meeting in Florence on 20 October 2010 to commemorate the opening for signature of the European Landscape Convention. It will be the Conference participants' earnest desire to contribute to the success of this magnificent celebration.

26. Closing of the Conference

by the representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS warmly thanked the participants for their substantial contributions in support of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and said they would be informed shortly about the future work and meetings.

* * *

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APPENDIX 2

INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

1. Introductory speech by

*Mrs Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Director General of Education,
Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe*

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg on the occasion of the fifth Council of Europe conference on the European Landscape Convention.

Thirty States have now ratified the Convention and six others have signed it.

The Convention has become an essential reference instrument, which is mentioned in numerous Council of Europe member states and indeed in other countries. It has already prompted many reforms of national, regional and local policy and legislation, and the work to ensure its implementation is beginning to have an impact on the ground.

Since our last meeting in March 2007, there have been some key developments:

- The intergovernmental committee responsible for implementing the Convention, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), has been set up;
- It was decided that the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, which brings together all those responsible for, and involved in, landscape would continue to be held under the auspices of the CDPATEP;
- The Committee of Ministers has adopted two key texts: the Recommendation on the Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention and the Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe;
- The Work Programme has been carried out satisfactorily, with the preparation of several key documents and the holding of Council of Europe meetings and workshops for the implementation of the Convention and national seminars;
- Work has been done to set up a Council of Europe system providing information about the Convention, which will constitute a proper database of landscape policies in the Organisation's member states.

I should like, in this connection, to extend my special thanks to Mr Jean-François Seguin, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Mr Bruno Favel, Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, Mr Andreas Stalder, Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, and Mr Audun Moflag, representative of the CEMAT Committee of Senior Officials, for the firm support they provided, and are still providing, for work to implement the Convention.

I also warmly thank all the representatives of governments and regional and local authorities for being so exceptionally receptive to the messages put across by the Convention.

My thanks go too to the governmental international organisations working in partnership with the Council of Europe and the non-governmental organisations represented here by Ms Anne Marie Chavanon, Chair of the Council of Europe Conference of INGOs, which have been so active and useful.

We have a long road ahead of us, but the foundations for effective action have now been laid. The Convention is a new kind of international treaty, and should be considered as an environmental, social, cultural and economic convention. It is fully in keeping with the major objectives of the Organisation and reflects the concerns of our time: the aim is to watch out for the future of the environment in which human beings live. Human rights, democracy and the issues facing society are all questions that arise on the ground and are reflected in the landscape.

The Council of Europe has thus undertaken to continue to strive to ensure that land is used wisely, with due respect for the landscape and both natural and cultural resources. With the European international law that has been introduced in recent years under its auspices, in particular with the Bern, Valletta, Granada, Florence and Faro conventions, it has played a pioneering role in the international arena. The co-ordination established with the work of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning is also essential, given that the whole territory – both exceptional areas and ordinary areas, including those where people live out their daily lives – are concerned.

Landscape is all around us and heritage is no longer confined to museums. We now have a broader vision and must make sure to promote new forms of intelligence where the land is concerned.

I wish you every success in your work over these two days.

2. Introductory speech by

Mr Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI, Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Group of Rapporteurs on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C), Representative of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport,
Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress,
Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP),
Chair of the Conference on the European Landscape Convention,
Chair of the Sustainable Territorial Development Committee of the Conference of INGOs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be with you today and to be able to speak on behalf of the Committee of Ministers at this 5th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, a human rights convention par excellence since its main concern is the human living environment. I am also happy that my country, San Marino, ratified the convention in 2003.

The Convention provides a response to the concerns of contemporary society by keeping a watch over what happens to the spaces with which our lives are associated and where they unfold.

The perception that people have of their environment and the recognition of its diversity and specific historical and cultural features are crucial. These features contribute to respect for, and the protection, of the citizens' identity and to individual and social development.

The Convention involves the recognition of the citizens' rights and their duty to play an active role in knowledge acquisition and decision-making processes and in managing the quality of the environment. The involvement of these citizens in decisions to act, in the implementation of those decisions and in their sustainable management is not just a formality. On the contrary, it is an integral part of the protection, management and conservation process.

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers recently reiterated its interest in the Convention by adopting Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

This recommendation recognises that, together with the instruments for its implementation, the Convention constitutes a genuine innovation compared with the other international instruments relating to the cultural and natural heritage. The Convention has already been the driving-force for developments in many European states, not only in the context of their national and regional legislation but also at the various administrative levels and in the testing of active and participatory landscape policies.

This situation has come about and is continuing to evolve both in states that have long been active in this area and have tried and tested landscape policies and instruments and in states that have not yet progressed so far. In the light of its general principles that act as a guide for all landscape policies, the Convention is accordingly used by some states as a benchmark to initiate a process of profound change in their landscape policies, while for others it constitutes an opportunity to define their policy.

The Committee of Ministers welcomes the attention and the energy that the Council of Europe devotes to our unique environment. These efforts are justified if we consider that the quality of that environment is fundamentally important not only for the health and well-being of individuals and societies but also for their cultural and spiritual life. Building on the European Landscape Convention and Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 on the Guiding principles for sustainable

spatial development of the European Continent, the aim is to promote a new “territorial dimension of human rights”. The important thing is to understand that the land shapes the human spirit and to know whether the areas that our cultures are producing will still be capable of awakening the spirit and imagination of future generations.

An important ministerial conference associated with a vision of human rights adapted to the key requirements of sustainable development in the 21st century will be held in 2010. This is the 15th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT), in the Russian Federation on “*Future challenges: sustainable development of the European continent in a changing world*”.

The very structure and work programme of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape reflect the ambitious aim of a society that forges a link between democracy and the living environment. No one doubts that this conference will be a key stage along this path.

I wish you every success in your efforts to ensure the implementation of the Convention.

3. Introductory speech by

Mrs Gaye DOGANOGLU, Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address this Conference which marks the fifth anniversary since the entry into force of the European Landscape Convention. It is a particular honour because the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe was at the origin of this pivotal European treaty, the first of its kind, dedicated to European landscapes. This is not surprising. The Congress has always worked at the level closest to the citizen and is well-placed to respond to the growing clamour from the general public to better protect their landscape and environment, to have a real say in how their surroundings are shaped and managed. We strongly believe that preserving our environment is essential because it is an intrinsic part of our culture and our history.

Five years may not be a long time in historical and political terms, but it is certainly time enough for the guiding principles set out in this Convention to take root in European soil, for them to be translated into specific commitments and steps made by the Contracting Parties, time enough to get the various stakeholders involved in landscape protection, management and planning.

This fifth Conference is an excellent occasion to take stock of the progress made over the five years, to look at the challenges encountered and chart out future action for implementing the European Landscape Convention.

There is a pervasive intimate link between landscape and well-being, between landscape and cultural identity, and between landscape and health. Landscapes play an important role in people's daily relation to their environment, whether they live in a rural or urban setting. This is why the Congress is convinced that landscape preservation, protection and management are an integral part of sustainable development, a prerequisite for improving the quality of life of our communities.

Sustainable development today is crucial for our citizens, especially in the light of the consequences of uncontrolled global economic development that threaten the environment, the onset of climate change, the depletion and even destruction of our natural resources, and the ever more serious effects of pollution on human health. Against this background, sustainability comes as a form of controlled development that will establish the basis for sustainable growth and ensure our citizens a good quality of life, employment and a reasonable future for their children.

Yet, we cannot ensure such sustainability without first reversing today's widespread degradation of our natural environment and of Europe's landscape and reducing the risk to the biodiversity due to the impact of pollution, economic activity, urban sprawl, and poor urban, regional and national planning.

The European Landscape Convention is a crucial tool in helping all levels of governance towards sustainable development policies which, in turn, should be geared towards improving the environmental well-being of our citizens and our communities – not only in the sense of “natural environment” and environmental protection, but as an integral part of our action to create a new urban and rural environment – an environment which would balance economic development and ecological concerns and which would be citizen-oriented, cohesive, sustainable and knowledge-driven.

The Congress' efforts today are focused on building this healthy, sustainable environment which should be considered as a fundamental human right and an integral part of local democracy. The European Landscape Convention is one of the instruments to achieve this goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the Convention's features is the key role it assigns to local and regional authorities in landscape protection, management, development and enhancement. Similarly, the importance of landscape and the Convention are reflected in the work of the Congress and its Committee on Sustainable Development: its integrated approaches to the environment, its emphasis on sustainable land use and its quest to balance the demands of the city and rural areas are just some examples.

It is reflected in the European Urban Charter II: Manifesto for a new urbanity, adopted by the Congress in May 2008, which sets out principles for modern urban governance and living. We call on all actors involved to implement the principles of ethical governance, sustainable development and greater solidarity in their public policies, aimed at building a sustainable and environmentally friendly city, developing urban ecology, reducing the ecological footprint of our towns and cities, preserving natural resources and biodiversity, and saving energy. We advocate a denser and more compact city, a city which gives better access for all to public facilities and services. In this context, landscape in the city is indeed a key point for urban planning and development, in our effort to reconcile heritage and modernity, industrial and residential, work and recreation.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". When planning their cities or regions, local and regional authorities must look at key areas which can be influenced. We immediately think of employment, mobility, air quality, climate change but only sometimes health.

Urban planning cannot deliver healthy living by itself, but it can help remove the barriers to better health and well-being. For us in the Congress, it is evident that a healthy urban and spatial planning means planning for the people. We promote the idea that the city is much more than just buildings, streets and open spaces, but a living, breathing organism, the health of which is closely linked to that of its citizens.

To us, healthy urban planning focuses on the positive impact that planning can have on human health, well-being and quality of life. The landscape is an integral part of the policies to be implemented in this respect. Planning guided solely by short-term economic imperatives will ultimately fail to deliver a healthy environment for the people and will be costly to remedy. We should bear this in mind especially today in the face of pressures created by the international financial and economic crises.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The importance of landscape is also reflected in our ongoing work on climate change which is currently focused on the ways coastal towns and cities will adapt in the face of worrying rising sea levels. Rising sea levels is one of the most dramatic consequences of global warming and will have a drastic impact on landscapes if left unattended. This issue will be the subject of Congress recommendations to respond to the challenge.

Landscape issues are also part of our continuing work on territorial cohesion which will focus this year on intra-regional transport and mountain regions.

Last but not least, the impact of local and regional public action and innovative projects on landscape will be examined and analysed in a report to be adopted by the Congress in 2011. This report will be part of our contribution to the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Congress is convinced that today's ecological crisis is the result of poor governance and that solutions can be found through greater cooperation, exchange and sharing of responsibilities between all levels of governance. The Landscape Convention offers a platform for such cooperation on this one particular but very important aspect.

For the Congress, the main challenge is how to secure a progressive change in our current non-sustainable forms of consumption and production, and how to alter the sectorial approach to the framing and implementing of our policies. Local and regional authorities have been showing an example with innovative approaches in many areas, including in implementing the Landscape Convention.

Many of them have taken the lead on landscape quality objectives and policies to protect, manage and plan landscape evolution. They have established landscape observatories and a participatory approach to achieve the main objectives which are to avoid the anarchic consumption of space and soil while at the same time preserving regional identity and enhancing the assets of the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the Congress is delighted to be able to participate in implementing the European Landscape Convention, in continuing to ensure that the vision of the Convention becomes ever more salient in our daily environment. Local and regional authorities are increasingly involved in promoting the ideas, values and processes advanced by the Convention, and the Committee on Sustainable Development will continue its work to build upon this local and regional input, by looking at innovative local and regional public actions which include the landscape dimension.

4. Introductory speech by

Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Chair of the Conference on the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Colleagues and Friends,

At the conference in March 2007, you accorded me the honour of giving me a mandate to ensure that our European Landscape Convention stays alive and well and makes a significant contribution to the individual and social wellbeing of Europeans. You asked Nataša Bratina Jurković to assist me in carrying out this mandate as Vice-Chair. We both thank you once again for this vote of confidence.

Today, it is necessary for us to report on this mandate, which I will do by reiterating the conclusions of the last conference.

Your first wish was to increase the number of signatures and ratifications of the Convention: Latvia ratified on 5 June 2007, Hungary on 26 October 2007, Spain on 26 November 2007 and Montenegro on 22 January 2009. Serbia signed on 21 September 2007. Today, 30 states have ratified and 6 have signed the Convention, which is a magnificent result. I have to say that it is more the will of the governments rather than our own commitment that has made this possible.

Your second wish was that the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention be adopted in the form of a Committee of Ministers recommendation, which was done in February 2008. This document has already become a reference document for defining and implementing landscape policies.

You wanted to go beyond this procedure and examine in more detail how to implement these recommendations. With Nataša, we wanted at the same time to meet your desire to pave the way for the active monitoring of the Convention.

With these two intentions in mind, and having met the European Heritage Network (HEREIN) in September 2008 to find out more about its activities and instruments after taking part as Chair in the excellent international seminar on landscape indicators, organised by Catalonia in November 2007, we set up a working group, with the help of a voluntary contribution from my country, France, to present to you today draft proposals for a European Landscape Convention Observatory. If you adopt the guidelines to be presented to you shortly, this observatory can be set up in order to:

1. foster the mutual assistance and exchanges of information provided for in Article 8, and facilitate the monitoring of the convention's implementation provided for in Article 10;
2. enable the authorities, the public and scientific experts to access complete and precise information on fundamental data and experience relating to landscape protection, management and planning;
3. highlight the positive and concrete effects of the Convention on the quality of the European landscapes.

With regard to the regulations concerning the Council of Europe Landscape Award, you wanted them to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers. This was done on 20 February 2008 and enabled the Council of Europe's Secretariat to issue a call for nominations. The first edition of this award is under way and the first Council of Europe Landscape Award will, I hope, be presented on 20 October next, the anniversary of the opening for signature of the European Landscape Convention.

You wanted the relationship between the European Union's instruments and landscape policies to be examined, so with Nataša Bratina Jurković we set up a working group consisting of experts and representatives of the Parties. The results of this work will be presented to you in the form of the

report entitled “Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”. This report opens up some very interesting prospects.

The Chair’s work did not stop there. After the disappearance of the CODBP, it was necessary to ensure as far as possible that Article 10 on monitoring the implementation of the Convention was properly implemented.

With Nataša Bratina Jurković, we took part in the conference on “International conventions and major texts for heritage: current situation and prospects” in Vilnius in October 2007. This provided an opportunity for initial discussions on the CDPATEP’s terms of reference.

Today, the CDPATEP is the competent committee of experts mentioned in Article 10 of the Convention. At the CDPATEP meeting in April 2008, two representatives of the Parties to the Convention, Andreas Stalder, as Vice Chair, and Pavlína Mišíková, were elected to the bureau of the CDPATEP.

In the CDPATEP’s terms of reference, there are three provisions that I believe are important for the European Landscape Convention.

The first is that precise information should be available on the implementation of Article 10 of the Florence Convention. The monitoring to be carried out will show that the Convention is having a beneficial impact on landscape quality in Europe and that the dynamism and innovation that we have always displayed actually meet the “aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings”.

The second is that our conference now has the sound legal basis that it has so far lacked. Our work is officially part of the process of breathing life into the European Landscape Convention.

The third, and last, is that the Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for regional/spatial planning (CEMAT) is involved in the CDPATEP’s work.

On this last point, it seems to me that the links between landscape and spatial planning, and therefore between our conference and CEMAT, are still too weak for your liking. We must relentlessly pursue our efforts in this regard. I have played a modest part by participating in two international symposia organised by CEMAT: in Andorra la Vella in October 2007 on “*The accessibility and attractiveness and of rural and landlocked areas*” and in Yerevan in October 2008 on “*The spatial dimension of human rights*”.

We will also have to continue our efforts to ensure that the NGOs play an important part in our work. This is shown by the invitation to CEMAT and the Council of Europe’s Conference of OINGs to attend the opening of the conference.

For my part, throughout the two years in which I have in some way been your spokesman, I have involved not only states in my work but also the regions (many thanks in particular to the Walloon Region and Catalonia), the NGOs (thanks in particular to Terry O’Regan of Landscape Alliance Ireland, Patrice Collignon, of the “Countryside and Environment” Grouping and Richard Stiles of ECLAS), and the experts (special thanks to Lionella Scazzosi, Burkhart Kolbmüller, Catherine Lalumière, Yves Luginbühl, Adrian Olivier and Graham Fairclough).

This mandate has been a source of enrichment, and the burden has not been too heavy thanks to your support and encouragement. In conclusion, I will have only one regret: Nataša Bratina Jurković has been a very good Vice-Chair but has for personal reasons had to give up her career in the administration of the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. She was therefore

unable to finish her term as Vice-Chair. Fortunately, she has been able to contribute to the development of the Convention as an expert. Thank you, Nataša.

5. Introductory speech by

*Mrs Natasa BRATINA JURKOVIC, Former Chair of the 4th Conference on
the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe*

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to use this opportunity and compliment to our president Mr. Jean-Francois Seguin on his very good work and cooperation we had during last two years.

I sincerely appreciated the way he has conducted any work being done very exactly but also very hearty.

To the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and its administration I would like to thank for very correct cooperation, especially to Mrs Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons.

I would like her to know that I appreciate her efforts supporting us very much.

Finally, I would like to thank to all representatives of Parties for their support and confidence.

I must say I am very honoured to be able to stay connected to Council of Europe and still being actively involved in development and implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

Thank you once again.

6. Introductory speech by

Mr Bruno FAVEL, Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe

Friends and Members of the Conference on the Landscape Convention,

I particularly regret that, for personal reasons beyond my control, I am unable to participate in your work at the biennial Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention on 30 and 31 March 2009 at the Palais de l'Europe. Mr Stalder will represent the CDPATEP in his capacity as its Vice-Chair.

The Landscape Conference provides all of us with an opportunity every two years to reaffirm how important it is for Council of Europe member states to embrace landscape in its entire management and spatial planning dimension instead of limiting themselves to natural and traditional landscapes, since a landscape does not stop at state borders.

Our conference, whose reputation has grown in the last few years outside the confines of this body and whose work is regularly discussed by the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, is right to debate the future of landscape in Europe and enhances the Council's prestige.

Since the restructuring in 2008, when the two committees were merged, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) has devoted considerable attention in this work to landscape issues.

I am pleased to inform you that our Swiss colleague Andreas Stalder is also Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape and that our Slovakian colleague is also a member of our Bureau. Incidentally, Jean-François Seguin is a very successful Chair of this Conference and is actively involved in the work of the new CDPATEP.

The CDPATEP monitors the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, as it does the other major Council of Europe conventions on the cultural and architectural heritage.

It needs to be pointed out that since the year 2000, when the European Landscape Convention came into force, the place of landscape and the role of landscape professionals in the policies of states are now fully assured, even though other types of threat have since emerged, especially with climate warming, the uncontrolled development of natural resources and the low allocation of public funds to this discipline in some states.

In its work, the Council of Europe endeavours to contribute to the impact of landscape and its inclusion in national policies. The creation of a new landscape award should make it possible to underline the importance of the visibility of the players involved in landscape issues in the construction of a greater Europe where landscape protection is paramount.

For all these reasons, the Council of Europe and the CDPATEP need your ideas and arguments to continue to convince private and public decision-makers. I also pay tribute to the work of the Secretariat, Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons and Daniel Théron.

I wish you every success in your work.

7. Introductory speech by

Mr Andreas STALDER, Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe

Director General,
Mr Chairman,
Delegates, Observers and Landscape Experts,

On behalf of the Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, Mr Bruno Favel, who unfortunately has to ask you to excuse his absence from this 5th European Landscape Conference, I would like to welcome you all to this meeting in my capacity as the committee's Vice-Chair.

This 5th Landscape Conference provides an opportunity for all of us to reaffirm every two years the importance for Council of Europe member states of embracing landscape in its entire spatial management and planning dimension and not limiting themselves to traditional natural and cultural landscapes.

For the first time since the entry into force of the European Landscape Convention in 2004, Council of Europe restructuring has influenced and even called into question the spirit and operation of our Convention.

It should be reiterated that, according to the Convention, the concept of landscape can only be understood in a broad and all-embracing sense. It also needs to be pointed out that we should never forget the close interaction between the constituent elements of landscape – either the natural foundations, morphology, natural resources, habitats and biodiversity or the anthropogenic elements based on the impressive diversity of the European cultural heritage, which are themselves also permanently changing and reflect the dynamics of our cultures. Finally, let us not forget the third dimension: the constituent instruments for the sustainable development of landscape – spaces and their management, represented by a spatial development and spatial planning policy.

At the institutional level, after the dissolution without replacement of the Committee for Biological and Landscape Diversity and the replacement of the former Cultural Heritage Committee by the present CDPATEP, the CDPATEP faces a permanent challenge to remember the multidisciplinary roots of the European Landscape Convention. This is a very ambitious task given, for example, the various scientific disciplines involved, with their different, not always mutually intelligible languages.

The CDPATEP has accepted this challenge and regards it as an enriching element that forms part of the socio-cultural diversity to be maintained. The Committee is aware that the natural aspects and the spatial development instruments themselves are the basis for all cultural development with a spatial impact.

The CDPATEP not only manages the European Landscape Convention but, by tradition, the Council of Europe's three heritage and architectural conventions relating to the cultural heritage with spatial implications. As a result, it has been enlarged with the addition of a Vice-Chair and an additional member who represents the Convention. At the moment, our colleague Pavlína Mišíková and I have the honour to represent and take into account the many different aspects of the Landscape Convention in the CDPATEP's work.. CEMAT, the committee of senior officials with responsibility in the field of spatial planning, is currently represented by an observer. I very much hope that a satisfactory solution will be found to enable the Bern Convention also to be brought into the ambit to of the Committee's work to the appropriate extent so as to take full account of the Landscape Convention's philosophy mentioned at the beginning.

It has to be said that since 2004, when our Florence Convention came into force, the place of landscape and the role of landscape architects and landscape professionals in the policies of states have been taken for granted and consolidated, even though other types of harmful threat have emerged. Here, I am thinking in particular of climate warming, the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources and the low amount of public funds allocated to landscape disciplines in some states. There is a danger that the present economic crisis will once again focus the attention of individuals and politicians on short-term activism instead of the development of long-term goals.

For all these reasons, the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe and the CDPATEP need your ideas and creative contributions in order to continue to convince private and public decision-makers that there are values that should not only be protected but also developed in a sensitive, holistic and, therefore, sustainable manner.

I wish you great success with your work and thank you for your participation and your daily commitment on behalf of our European landscapes.

8. Introductory speech by

*Mr Audun MOFLAG, Audun Moflag, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment, Norway
Representative of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference of the Council of Europe of
Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) to the CDPATEP*

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important event. Today, I speak on behalf of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Europe of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT), which is working for a sustainable spatial development.

The European Landscape Convention makes an important contribution to Council of Europe core objectives: i.e. human rights, democracy and social cohesion.

The member states implementing the Convention are promoting:

- the quality of life and individual and social well being of their citizens,
- local self government, active citizenship and participation,
- sustainable local and regional development, and
- attractive local communities, stimulating people's creativity and entrepreneurship.

This we are going achieve by protection, management and planning of the landscape and by mutual exchange of knowledge and best practice across Europe.

The Convention gives new meaning to our notion of landscapes

It tells us what they are – and what they mean to us as human beings.

Firstly, the Convention defines the entire national territory as landscapes

It is covering natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

Secondly, the Convention emphasises the landscape as living environment for people

Landscape is defined as an area, as we *perceive* it on the basis of our experiences and knowledge.

Our perception goes far beyond the visual aesthetics – ugly or beautiful. We perceive the landscape by all our senses – eyesight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. This is in turn giving rise to emotional associations and personal identity: like sense of belonging, pride, self confidence, security, recreation and coping with stress.

Not only does the landscape stimulate our senses. In any given situation, our environment is also presenting physical opportunities and obstacles, influencing how we choose to move about and who we will happen to meet.

Hence, the Convention is not so much about preserving unspoiled nature or magnificent countryside. But it forces us to reassess the everyday landscapes, in which most people actually live and work.

Thirdly, the convention accommodates the fact that the landscape is always changing

The changes may be due to nature's own processes – such as wind, rain and snow, flooding, landslides and fires – or impacts by man. However, by far most changes are caused by human activities – like forestry and agriculture, urban development, industry, energy production, transport infrastructure and so forth.

The convention does not aim at *preventing* such changes or *freezing* any particular landscape. On the contrary – the convention can help us turning the changes that are bound to occur, into landscapes in which people themselves positively want to live and work.

This makes planning a key action in the implementation

Planning is required:

- to protect our heritage,
- when creating new landscapes due to new development, and
- when upgrading landscapes previously spoiled by thoughtless use.

In all cases, the crucial issue is: Will our decisions and actions be to the better or the worse?

Awareness rising and better knowledge are the basic requirements

Everyone in a planning or decision making position must recognise:

- that all places are *landscapes* – whether unspoiled nature, countryside, villages or cities,
- that the quality of the landscape has great impact on our quality of life and health, and
- that these landscapes are ever changing – the reasons why, and how.

Many decisions and actions may in themselves seem small and insignificant. However, the added impact of many small actions may cause changes that *nobody* really wants. Hence, it is crucial that we:

- realise what kind of decisions and actions that are changing the landscape,
- understand which ones that are promoting the qualities we want, and which are detrimental, and
- look ahead to see where today's trends are going to bring us – to where we would like to go, or to where we do *not* want to end up.

Assessments and quality objectives must be recognised and understood by all players within the local community. This includes of course the general public. But even more important are all authorities and private enterprises deciding or approving change. Otherwise, any nicely formulated goal or joint agreement about the development ahead is likely to fall apart.

Landscape is a political issue – a field for politicians and political innovation

Evolving policies is obviously the responsibility of politicians

However, politics affect the *whole* community and should not be left to the responsibility of politicians *alone*:

- politics should rest on scientific facts and advice,
- politicians and their advisers should act complementary – based on a common understanding of goals and measures, and
- politicians should act in close understanding and dialogue with the citizens who voted for them.

Landscape planning and development widen the scope for active participation

The convention emphasises the significance of landscape as people's living environment – and an issue for democratic debate. This is easily recognised. We all have some kind of attitude to the place in which we live!

When meeting on a personal level this way, people do not appear as experts or non experts of different significance. Nor does the landscape, according to the convention, belong to one academic discipline alone. It is the common meeting ground for a number of professions. In landscape issues, professionals and citizens all have equal saying – regardless of academic, ethnical, social or cultural background.

Therefore, active citizens are likely to encourage the political creativity, increase the spectre of feasible actions in local community and stimulate the institutional capacity of its administration.

Lastly, active citizens and participation require transparency and openness in planning and decision making processes – discouraging any liability to foul play.

Mr Chairman,

CEMAT has long been, and still is, committed to consider and integrate the landscape issues in spatial development

This is shown by the formal documents adopted by the Ministers responsible for spatial development in the CEMAT's sessions.

The Guiding Principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent, adopted by the CEMAT Ministers in Hannover, in 2000, and later the subject of Recommendation 2002(1) of the Committee of Ministers to the Members States, has several mentions to the landscape, both as a strategic factor and as potential to be considered in sustainable spatial development and in relation to their protection, management, enhancement and rehabilitation.

The Ljubljana Declaration on sustainable territorial development, adopted by the CEMAT Ministers in Ljubljana, in 2003, includes the landscape in the main challenges to the sustainability of the European Continent.

More recently, the *Lisbon Declaration on Networks for the sustainable spatial development of the European Continent: Bridges over Europe*, adopted by the CEMAT Ministers in Lisbon, 2006, mentions the landscape character once more – reinforcing that it contributes to the European identity and to its development potential, and integrates the creation of European Landscape Networks in the framework of the European Landscape Convention, in the priorities for European territorial cooperation and for network creation.

Then finally, thank you so much for your kind attention!

9. Introductory speech by

Ms Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Chair of the Sustainable Territorial Development Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Mr Chairman,
Chair of the Rapporteur Group,
Director General,
Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress,
Chair of the CDPATEP,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first of all like to thank you for allowing the Conference of INGOs to be present from the beginning of these proceedings in the same way as you have the Assembly and the Congress. This is both an honour and sends a strong message to civil society.

The Conference of INGOs groups together over 400 INGOs that have participatory status with the Council of Europe. This status was conferred on them by the Committee of Ministers in 2003, thus making the Conference the “fourth pillar” of the Council of Europe, which is the term also used by the Committee of Ministers when referring to it. I would like to stress that, of all the international and intergovernmental organisations, the Council of Europe is a shining example when it comes to involving civil society in its work, as evidenced by the very first words of the European Landscape Convention and by the fact that you have involved the Conference of INGOs in the work of the European Landscape Award jury.

The Conference of INGOs works in committees set up according to everyone’s main interests and competences. The Sustainable Territorial Development Committee, which I have the honour to represent here today, is the result of the merger of two former groupings (“NGO Towns” and “Countryside and Environment”, which were chaired by Robert Lafont and Patrice Collignon respectively) – two groupings that made a very active contribution from the outset to preparing and following up the work on the European Landscape Convention.

The members of this committee comprise 76 INGOs, including:

- INGOs that represent local and regional authorities and politicians, such as the Assembly of European Regions or the European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas,
- “specialised” INGOs: for some organisations, landscape is a subject of research and a core competence. To mention just a few: RED, ECOVAST, the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP), ISOCARP, the European Archaeology Association, the European Environmental Bureau or my own INGO, the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP). In many cases, these INGOs are “aggregators” of powers and responsibilities (as shown by the presence among us today of certain senior officials who are members of some of them – allow me to greet the members of IFHP). These INGOs – or their members – are very much at the forefront in dealings with state administrative departments or politicians and are involved in the drawing up and implementation of landscape projects or policies,
- others, which we called “generalist” INGOs, represent the entire population. They always defend human rights – some of them are major humanitarian INGOs, have no particular technical competence in the environmental, urban planning or landscape fields and are not invited to be involved in proposals and negotiations. With your permission, I will make myself the spokesman of them all here today, especially this last group.

I am first of all therefore speaking on their behalf and wish to pay particular tribute to the considerable work done by the Council of Europe through the European Landscape Convention, which makes available not only to the authorities and people from the art world but also the population at large a text and an approach imbued with great respect for human rights and a continuous concern for sustainable development. This tribute is meant for you all.

The landscape dimension underlying the Convention has been brilliantly described by the previous speakers, much better in fact than I could have done. However, allow me to express a concern and a wish that, for me, are key to the democratic application of the Convention, namely the legal recognition of landscape and the citizens' involvement in its management.

Legal recognition

The Convention commits each party “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”.

We are all citizens and have all been impotent witnesses of projects with a devastating impact on a landscape, sometimes presented as being in the public interest but sometimes, as Ms Doganoglu said in her speech, carried out in pursuit of very short-term private or semi-private interests – in the face of which even the politicians themselves were powerless.

My question is simple. I do not know if the Environment Round Table (*Grenelle de l’environnement*) in France has thought about this: how can this recognition in those terms be made binding? How can it be made more intelligible for the citizens without their having to find their way through the labyrinth of national laws and regulations and deal with the complexity of urban planning documents, the actual legal significance of which they are generally unaware? Just as they also normally do not know which is the competent authority to contact.

Citizen participation

Each paragraph of the guidelines is exemplary in that it refers to public involvement, ie the citizen’s expertise, and stresses that that implies two-way communication “from experts and scientists to the population and vice versa”.

Some signatory states have introduced effective participatory procedures but I would like to stress here the need to extend clear practices to the whole of Europe, because while landscape is, as the Convention says, a resource – a global or “meta” resource – that involves all players, whether public or private – it must be used by everyone in an informed and responsible manner. That, incidentally, is the reason for the linkage in the guidelines between participation, awareness raising, training and education.

Accordingly, my wish is that in each of our countries the implementation of the Convention should be a formal, institutional step towards the participation referred to throughout the text. It is not a question of competing with elected representatives or of challenging the authority with which the final decision lies but of making participation more comprehensible and more effective. I would like to bring about what might be termed “user input”, by which I mean the possibility of a triangular relationship between the client that decides on the project, the developer that carries it out and the people who use the resource, thus making a comparison possible, as the recommendation states, “between analyses by experts and the values attached by the population to landscape”. This formalised triangular relationship should thus make it possible to highlight at the territorial level the roles played by all the key players that use and influence the resource.

In short, it is a “participatory status” like the one enjoyed by the INGOs at the Council of Europe, a status that gives me the privilege to speak to you today and to express the hope that the two days of our conference will be particularly productive and rewarding.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX 3

AGENDA

Presentation of the aims of the Conference

The European Landscape Convention was adopted in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000 and came into force on 1 March 2004, with the aim of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning, and encouraging European co-operation in this area. The Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of European landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

The Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law and seeking common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. By taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

As of 21 March 2009, 30 States had ratified the Convention: Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom. Six States had signed but not ratified it: Azerbaijan, Greece, Malta, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland.

The aim of the Conference is to present to all member and observer States of the Council of Europe, and to international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations, the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, and practical questions related to its implementation.

* * *

MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009

Opening of the Session

9.00-9.30 *Welcome of participants*

9.30-10.30

Introductory speeches

Mrs Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe

Mr Guido BELLATTI CECCOLI, Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Group of Rapporteurs on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C), Representative of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Mrs Gaye DOGANOGLU, Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Chair of the Conference on the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Mrs Natasa BRATINA JURKOVIC, Former Chair of the 4th Conference on the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe

Mr Bruno FAVEL, Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe

Mr Andreas STALDER, Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) of the Council of Europe

Mr Audun MOFLAG, Representative of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference of the Council of Europe of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT) to the CDPATEP

Mrs Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Chair of the Sustainable Territorial Development Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

10.30-10.45

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 1]

10.45-11.15 Break

11.15-11.30

3. Preparation of the elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference

11.30-11.45

4. Terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP)

* * *

11.45-12.30

Session 1 – Follow-up of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

5. Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 2]

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (*adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 February 2008*)

6. Landscape policies in the member states of the Council of Europe

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 3 – Presentation of the Status of Landscape Policies in the Member States of the Council of Europe]

7. Guiding Principles for a Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention and Draft Decision

[Document for examination: CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 4 – Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention – Links with HEREIN and Draft Decision]

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00

8. General report of activities 2007-2009

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 5]

9. Meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 6]

- 20-21 September 2007, Sibiu, Romania, “*Landscape and rural heritage*”, organised in the framework of the Year “Sibiu, European Capital of Culture” (Publication of the Council of Europe, Series Spatial planning and landscape, N° 88)
- 24-25 April 2008, Piestany, Slovak Republic, “*Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management*”
- ...
- 8-9 October 2009, Malmö, Sweden, “*Landscape and driving forces*”

10. National information seminars on the European Landscape Convention

- 4-5 June 2007, Andorra la Vella, Principality of Andorra, “*Seminar on the landscape*”, (Publication of the Council of Europe, Series Spatial planning and landscape, N° 85)

11. Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 7]

Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (*adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008*)

12. Information on some recent Council of Europe meetings concerning spatial planning and cultural heritage

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-17.45

13. Report “Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”

[Document for examination : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 8]

14. Draft Resolution

[Document for examination : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 9]

18.00-19.30 Official Reception in the Blue Restaurant of the Palais de l’Europe

TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2009

Session 2 – Actions for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

9.00-10.30

- 15. Presentation of the actions carried out by the Parties to the Convention at national, regional and local levels for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 10 – Interventions by Parties and observer States]

Communications from the States present at the Conference.

10.30-11.00 *Break*

11.00-11.30

- 16. Presentation of the actions carried out by international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations dedicated to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 11 – Interventions by international governmental and non-governmental organisations]

Communications by representatives of institutions and organisations present at the Conference.

11.30-12.30

- 3 bis. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference**

Session 3 – Other work carried out on landscape education, training and awareness-raising

- 17. Education**

- Landscape and education of children
[Document for information : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 12]
- International Heritage Photographic Experience EPIM – Heritage and landscape

- 18. Training**

- Training of landscape architects
[Document for discussion : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 13]

- 19. Promotion of knowledge and research**

- European Local Landscape Circle Studies
[Document for information : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 14]
- Road infrastructures: tree-lined avenues in the landscape
[Document for information : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 15]
- Landscapes and Ethics
[Document for information : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 16]

20. Awareness-raising

- “Vernacular rural habitat, an heritage in our landscape”, Futuropa n° 1, 2008
- “Landscape and Transfrontier Co-operation”, Futuropa n° 2 (in preparation)

21. Access to information

Websites of the European Landscape Convention:
www.coe.int/Europeanlandscapeconvention /<http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropennedupaysage>

22. Publications – Draft Resolution on an editorial board

[Document for information : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 17]

12.30-13.00 Presentation of the EPIM Exhibition – Heritage and Landscape

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.30

Session 4 – Follow-up and perspectives

23. Programme of activities for 2009-2010

[Document for examination : CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 18]

24. Other business

16.00-16.30 Break

* * *

Closing session

16.30-17.00

25. Conclusions of the Conference
by the Chair of the Conference

26. Closing of the Conference
by the representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

* * *

APPENDIX 4

DRAFT DECISION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDPATEP) ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION OBSERVATORY

The Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP),

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;
2. Having regard to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No 176) adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature by Council member states in Florence on 20 October 2000;
3. Considering that the Convention makes an important contribution to the Council of Europe's objectives of promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law and seeking common solutions to the main problems facing European society today;
4. Underlining that, in taking account of natural, cultural and landscape value of regions, the Council of Europe seeks to preserve the quality of life and human well-being;
5. Referring to the provisions of the Convention on monitoring its implementation (Article 10.1) and mutual assistance and exchange of information (Article 8), under which the parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken and, in particular, exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention;
6. Considering that Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention proposes that each party should contribute to the setting up of a database to appear on the website of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention; pointing out that the recommendation mentions that the database should be a "toolbox" providing technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the European Landscape Convention concerning mutual assistance and exchange of information;
7. Takes note of the guiding principles which appear in the document in the Appendix.

Appendix

European Landscape Convention Observatory

Introduction

1. The European Landscape Convention represents a major contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Council of Europe, which are to promote democracy, human rights and rule of law and to seek common solutions to the major problems of Europe's society. Therefore, as required by Article 10.1 of the Convention on the monitoring of its implementation, and by the provisions in the terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) on monitoring of the cultural heritage and landscape conventions, it is expedient to have an information system established for documenting measures taken, experience gained and trials conducted in support of the Convention's implementation, under the aegis of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, entitled "European Landscape Convention Observatory".

Article 8 of the Convention on mutual assistance and exchange of information provides that the Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken and in particular to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention; accordingly, this European Landscape Convention Observatory will foster international co-operation in landscape matters.

2. A document presenting the landscape policies pursued in the Council of Europe member states, which sets out the essential facts concerning the status of landscape in those countries, is regularly produced by the Council of Europe Secretariat [*Document of the 5th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention - CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 3Bil*].

3. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention proposes that each party contribute to the setting up of a database to appear on the website of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention. It indicates that the database would be a "toolbox" helping to provide mutual technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape-related experience, experimentation and research work, as provided for in the aforementioned Article 8 of the Convention on mutual assistance and exchange of information. The European Landscape Convention Observatory will constitute that toolbox.

The creation of a European Landscape Convention Observatory requires that its objectives and implementation procedures be settled, that is:

- 1) its accessibility,
- 2) its form,
- 3) its content,
- 4) the languages used,
- 5) its interactive mode of operation,
- 6) the links established with existing networks,
- 7) its development in the medium term,
- 8) its implementation.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Having regard to the prerequisites stipulated above, it is proposed to create within the Council of Europe an interactive information system aiding the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and conforming to the Convention's main articles:

- Article 1: Definitions of the terms protection, management and planning;
- Article 6: Specific measures:
 - C, Identification and assessment,
 - D, Landscape quality objectives,
 - E, Implementation,
- Article 8: Mutual assistance and exchange of information;
- Article 10: Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

The information system should permit the fulfilment of the following objectives:

- affording administrations and the public access to sources of essential facts and experiences of landscape protection, management and planning;
- acting as an “observatory” in order to analyse and forecast the advantages which a rapidly changing society can derive from taking care of the landscape;
- making it easier to monitor the development of landscape policies “in keeping” with the European Landscape Convention;
- maintaining and extending landscape co-operation networks, and fostering transnational co-operation;
- creating a landscape portal in order to disseminate information effectively, facilitate the organisation of interactive professional forums and data networks, and encourage people, especially youth, to take an interest in landscape;
- provide useful information for research and action.

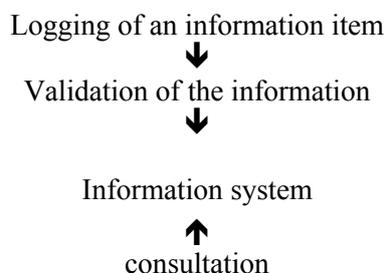
This information system will result in the establishment of a European Landscape Convention Observatory for handling certain subject areas of relevance to landscapes and their development.

II. ACCESSIBILITY OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The principle of the European Landscape Convention Observatory’s information system is founded on accessibility of the information to all publics; however, a distinction should be drawn between:

- entities providing input into the information system and the public consulting it,
- factual information (policies, official texts) as opposed to programmatic and problematic information.

The principle of input and consultation is applied as outlined below:



1. Entities contributing to the information system

- Council of Europe Secretariat, CDPATEP,
- Council of Europe official parties,

- Political authorities,
- Central, local and regional public authorities of the Council of Europe countries,
- General public, NGOs, all agents in the economic or social sectors,
- Educational and scientific bodies,

according to the validation procedures specified below.

2. Public consulting the information system

As a matter of principle, the information system is accessible to all types of public.

III. FORM OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The information system of the European Landscape Convention Observatory is constituted by networked databases and a forum, linked in turn to national, regional or local and thematic websites, with entry-points marked by specific tabs.

- The advantage of such a system is to avoid constituting unduly voluminous databases and to allow distinct, separate management of each database;
- It also allows interconnection of the whole of the existing databases and networks with direct or indirect bearing on the question of landscapes.

This Internet network will be associated with a database containing “original” items which is specific to the European dimension of the Observatory, gathering together the data produced by the Council of Europe Secretariat.

An operator will be selected by the Council of Europe on the basis of a set of specifications itemising the tasks to be completed for the system’s construction and also its maintenance. Drawing up the specifications is one of the short-term objectives of the group of experts.

IV. CONTENT OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION OBSERVATORY

The observatory functions have the following components:

- one (or more) databases made up of:
 - a compendium of the policies of the Parties to the Convention,
 - a roundup of Council of Europe publications on landscape,
 - a diary of Council of Europe landscape-related events;
- information on Interreg and other Programmes of the European Union and other organisations;
- a record of experience or experimentation with landscape protection, management and planning actions, conducted in accordance with the principles of the European Landscape Convention or innovative where landscape is concerned;
- two discussion forums permitting exchanges and dialogues between the Parties to the Convention and with local and regional authorities and with NGOs;
- a thesaurus/glossary, taking into account the CEMAT Spatial development glossary;
- a portal for accessing projects and initiatives sustained by all types of players and validated according to the procedure discussed below;

The diary section may be provided at other levels (regional, local): see below.

1. Database on the policies of the Parties to the European Landscape Convention

The database will be stocked with:

- a) Information on the landscape policies of the various states, derived from the work of the member states' representatives, gathered by means of the Secretariat's survey of Council of Europe Parties conducted by questionnaire;
- b) Information on sectoral policies with a landscape-related component (for example, agricultural policy embodying provisions for landscape enhancement or construction policy with provisions taking landscape into account) and also derived from the same survey;
- c) Information should be validated with regard to its precision and correctness. Several levels of validation can be specified:
 - the first, priority, level of validation is the national, regional or local level: the representatives of the Parties to the European Landscape Convention will satisfy themselves as to the validity of the information in relation to the corpus of landscape policies and other policies embodying a landscape dimension, whatever the levels where these policies are framed,
 - another level is that of the Council of Europe Secretariat which will verify the conformity of the information to the objectives of the database. It may be assisted by a group of experts which will provide support in testing the validity of the information.

2. Database on experimental landscape protection, management or planning

It will concern experiments in landscape protection, management and planning carried out by member states, local and regional authorities or NGOs according to the principles of the European Landscape Convention or according to innovative methods not necessarily identified with the European Landscape Convention but conducive to improvement or enrichment of the methods. The pinpointing of these experiments will be left to the initiative of all publics so as to allow their protagonists all possible scope for expression.

3. Discussion forum

- a) The discussion forum is intended for the Parties. It will allow information to be provided on an interactive website concerning activities or studies on landscape and experiments with landscape protection, management and planning, exchanges of information and forms of transfrontier co-operation, that is any subject relating to landscapes within or outside Europe.
- b) Designed on an interactive pattern, the discussion forum will be consultable by all publics. The running of the forum rests with the Secretariat assisted by the group of experts under arrangements to be considered when the specifications for setting up the information system are established. Activities in this connection may include thematic discussions with reference to current concerns, and acute landscape issues.
- c) Any other kind of discussion forum is left to the initiative of the Parties, the political authorities at other levels or the other bodies and NGOs interested in landscape matters. The information system may set up links with these other forums.
- d) Utilisation of the informational and speculative material delivered by the contributors to the forum will be handled by the group of experts, which will make analyses of this material and produce synopses of it for posting on the site. Study of utilisation practices will be part of the questions considered in making out the specifications of the information system.

4. Thesaurus/glossary

- a) To aid communication and comprehension of the terms used in the information from the various member states which goes towards the completion of the databases, a

thesaurus/glossary will be compiled with reference to the terms defined in the European Landscape Convention, viz.:

- Term equivalent to “landscape” in each country and definition(s) of the term according to the scientific publications of the country concerned,
 - Landscape policy,
 - Landscape quality goal,
 - Landscape protection,
 - Landscape management,
 - Landscape planning,
 - And any other term that may appear relevant (eg landscape atlas = *catalogue de paysage*).
- b) Others terms may be added to the above depending on the significance attached to them by the national correspondents. The latter will need to verify the validity of the information they deliver and will be able to consult the specialists of their countries.
- c) Links will be established with the thesauruses of the HEREIN and ECLAS databases.
- d) The organisation of the thesaurus will be founded mainly on keywords drawn from the words and phrases of the European Landscape Convention.
- e) Management of the thesaurus is ensured by another group of experts than the one assisting with the running of the information system but the groups will be in contact under arrangements discussed when the specifications of the information system are worked out.

5. Portal for accessing databases, open to projects and initiatives identified in conjunction with the Parties and associated with the implementation of the Convention

- a) Miscellaneous information on landscape protection, management and planning which may be directly entered in the database by public authorities and the public according to the criteria to be proposed by the Secretariat and the experts’ working group;
- b) Council of Europe publications;
- reference texts (of the European Landscape Convention, explanatory report and sundry recommendations, particularly for the implementation of the convention, conference reports, etc.);
 - records and communications of the meetings of Council of Europe workshops on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
 - records and communications of the Council of Europe national seminars on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- c) News about the Council of Europe Landscape Prize: candidates, winners, winning entries;
- d) Chart of signatures and ratifications of the European Landscape Convention ;
- e) Bibliographies of non-Council of Europe publications: *link to external sites*:
- scientific publications,
 - publications of research reports,
 - books on various topics, particularly landscape painting;
- f) Institutions specialising in the study, protection, management and planning of landscapes and especially in the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: *link to external websites*;

- g) Identification and mapping of landscapes placed under special protection status (protected landscapes, part of the UNESCO World Heritage, etc.): *link to external websites*;
- h) Scientific laboratories specialising in landscape research: *link to external websites*;
- i) Transfrontier experiences: *link to external websites*;
- j) Photographic landscape observatories: *link to external websites*.

6. News spot

This will function at three levels:

- A diary of events organised or sponsored by the Council of Europe Secretariat concerning the European Landscape Convention (colloquies, workshops, seminars and exhibitions in progress or announced);
- A diary of events organised by the other Parties and other local and regional authorities; these will be tagged with a link to the relevant websites;
- A diary of events concerned by the proceedings of the thematic forum and tagged with a link to the relevant websites.

V. LANGUAGES USED IN THE DATABASES

- a) The languages used at the Council of Europe are English and French. These will be the languages used for the databases, but the information coming from a State Party will also appear in the national language.
- b) For the forum hosting discussion between the Parties, the languages used will be English and French together with the language of the country or community concerned.
- c) For the other discussion forums hyperlinked with the information system, the initiative of having translation into the Council of Europe official languages carried out rests with those in charge of the forums.
- d) A link is established with the thesaurus/glossary.

VI. LINKS WITH EXISTING NETWORKS

Prime links will be established with intergovernmental or non-governmental networks and databases.

The databases of the Council of Europe, HEREIN and CEMAT, the governments and the LE:NOTRE website of ECLAS or of certain NGOs will be given pride of place.

- a) The principle of the link is founded on the central theme covered by the network, institution or NGO;
- b) The institutional or NGO networks are the following:

Council of Europe:

- HEREIN: link under the heading of protection (heritage database);
- CEMAT: themes to be determined according to an instruction of the Conference;

Parties:

- Other links with the institutions of the Parties (ministries especially).

Non-governmental organisations:

- ECLAS: link to the thesaurus principally, and training matters;
- NGOs: links provided with the NGOs holding observer status with the Council of Europe in respect of the European Landscape Convention; the link will operate at the level of the Secretariat.

VII. MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT

- a) The information system will be put into effect starting with the preparation of a study specifying its architecture and proposing answers to the outstanding questions that will have been debated at the Conference of the European Landscape Convention in March 2009.
- b) Data collection might begin by inquiry among the correspondents of the Parties about national policies, then compilation of the database on national or regional policies.
- c) Work on the other databases, the glossary and the discussion forum will be spread out over progressive stages in collaboration with the technical operators. A timetable of these stages might be proposed together with the set of specifications for the information system. A trial model should be set up for testing and validation. These stages should lead to the creation of the European Landscape Convention Observatory whose acronym will be OCEP in French and ELCO in English.
- d) In future, links may be established with other NGOs according to the state of progress with implementation of the European Landscape Convention and the subject areas covered by these NGOs.

VIII. ACTUATION

- a) The creation of the information system requires the development of a user-friendly technical and ergonomic model comprising tabs for access to the various databases and the other sections, in particular the discussion forum and the glossary/thesaurus. It should allow the incorporation of all forms of documents relating to the landscapes issue, such as maps, photographs, sketches, graphs and possibly 3D representations, etc. The system should be accessible to visually challenged persons, as already appears possible now with the development of new technologies.
- b) Actuation will begin by laying down the specifications of the information system, to which the present group of experts will contribute, assisting the Council of Europe Secretariat and the CDPATEP. This group might work in collaboration with the technical operator and form the agency looking after the validation and quality control of the data or leading the discussion forum. The choice of the group of experts rests with the Council of Europe Secretariat.

*Appendix**Complementary synoptic explanatory table*

Definitions	National measures		European Co-operation	Exchange of experiences	Status and connections	
	General measures	Specific measures		Examples of good practice	Evaluation of landscapes – cartography maps	Status of ratification,
Landscape	Legislation – recognition of landscapes in law	Awareness-raising	International policies and programmes	Ministry responsibilities	Landscape Information system	contact person
Landscape policy	establish and implement landscape policies	Training and Education	Mutual assistance and exchange of information	NGO's participation	Protected landscapes: Natural heritage Cultural heritage	Connection addresses
Landscape quality objectives	participation of the general public	Identification and assessment	Transfrontier landscapes	Research institutions	Outstanding landscapes	Register of workshops
Landscape protection	Integration landscape into regional and town planning	Landscape quality objectives	Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention	Education institutions	Photo presentation landscape	List of national web sites
Landscape management	Integration landscape into cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economical policies	Implementation – to introduce instruments aimed protection, management, planning	Landscape Award of the Council of Europe	National Landscape Award – presentation of national projects	Exhibitions on landscape projects	International discussion forum
Landscape planning				International cooperation	Publication on ELC and it's implementation	

APPENDIX 5

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIXTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE
WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE
CONVENTION ON “LANDSCAPE AND RURAL HERITAGE”,
SIBIU, ROMANIA, 20-21 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Meeting organised by the Council of Europe, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, in association with the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Culture and Cults, the United Nations Development Programme (Romania), Sibiu Mayoralty and Sibiu County Council. The sixth Meeting of the Council of Europe of the Workshops for the implementation of European Landscape Convention was on the Agenda of the Sibiu 2007 European Capital of Culture’s Programme. Under the high patronage of the Romanian Presidency, this Programme was developed with the support of the Prime Minister and the European Commission. Special thanks to the partners and collaborators, who were also the Sibiu 2007 European Capital of Culture’s Programme producers: Government Commissioner for Sibiu 2007 European Capital of Culture’s Programme; Sibiu 2007 European Capital of Culture Association; Ministry of Culture and Cults of Romania; Sibiu County Council; Sibiu Mayoralty.

* * *

Mr Mauro AGNOLETTI
Expert of the Council of Europe

The sixth meeting, in Sibiu, of the Council of Europe Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention discussed the rural landscape in a particularly interesting context. But our thanks, first of all, to the Romanian Government and the City of Sibiu for their hospitality on the occasion of this meeting, at which the participants were given the opportunity of two days’ intensive discussion, with more than 100 speakers. The discussions took place at the Astra Museum, which contains outstanding examples of structures and machinery typical of rural Romania’s wealthy cultural heritage. Two excursions enabled the participants to visit and admire the rural landscape in this part of Romania.

The rural landscape is an important issue for all 47 Council of Europe member States, especially the new 27 member EU in which territory classified as rural accounts for more than 90% of the total surface area, contains over 60% of the population and produces more than 50% of total wealth. Apart from this quantitative data, it should also be pointed out that it is in the rural areas that much of European civilisation developed. This is reflected today by the many ways in which human beings have shaped the natural landscape over the centuries, producing some of the most marked and most representative manifestations of the European continent’s many different cultural identities. The numerous European landscapes are a reflection of the continent’s different faces, and the growing concern for the landscape indicates the social, political and cultural tensions of an entity that is still seeking its own identity, an identity not directed against other identities but concerned to overcome its own uncertainties by accepting dialogue, inclusion and diversity.

The role of the landscape and our perception of it have, however, changed in the course of time. Today, the landscape is no longer esteemed only for its “aesthetic and cultural” dimension, an elitist concept divorced from the socio-economic context. The landscape is now part of the definition of a development model. The aim is to tackle environmental issues by incorporating human society into a project not limited to simple “gardening” operations or to bureaucratic action that only involves systems of protection. The search for an identity and a sense of place, a search expressed by the demand for countryside, highlights a deeper malaise associated with the globalisation process, its standardising, modernising effects on the one hand and its imbalances and inequalities on the other. Tackling the landscape question in all its complexity involves a critique of established development models, without any concession to nostalgic yearnings for the pre-modern era or to unrealistic

questings for an environment or landscape immune from human influence. The landscape is a largely cultural construct. It exists once conceived of or to some extent “planned” by human beings, with account taken of its natural components. The diversity of meanings associated with the landscape and the opportunities presented by a landscape-based approach for the European continent mark out the landscape as a possible new paradigm for our development model, with the aim of harmonious integration of social, economic and environmental factors in space and time.

Transformation of the rural landscape

The reports presented at the meeting showed the different values attaching to the rural landscape. However, they also detailed the various degradation processes facing the landscape, bringing out the need to pinpoint, locate and inventory the characteristics of transformation in order to identify what is required in the way of management and development. Despite the wealth of documentation in recent years on sustainable development (especially with regard to the landscape), rural and environmental policies have been unable to prevent degradation processes that have often led to standardisation of the landscape. At the same time, law enforcement and supervision have been hampered by a lack of proper indicators and criteria for assessing the rural landscape and by the speed of the changes which socio-economic development has brought in recent years, increasingly altering the structural characteristics that affect the mechanisms for change.

As many reports show, the main consequence of these processes is the reduced quality of the rural landscape, a trend that can be seen today over a large part of Europe from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. The principal reason for this is the abandonment of land as a result of various demographic processes, with movement of the rural population to the towns and consequent neglect of traditional landscapes, these being less suited to development of industrial-scale farming. This process has also been aided by Community agricultural policies which, in order to reduce surpluses of farm produce, have promoted set-aside programmes and encouraged the gradual abandon of traditional farming systems, which are less important from the economic and productive point of view but crucial as far as the landscape is concerned. In Eastern Europe, the phenomenon was assisted by pre-1989 agricultural models, as the Romanian representatives reminded us at the meeting. The changes to the rural landscape that have taken place can be seen in all landscape types – agricultural, forest or pastoral – and also affect the built heritage.

The agricultural systems introduced have moved in opposite directions. In the areas most conducive to the cultivation models with the technical resources for industrial-scale farming, areas lending themselves to intensified and simplified production, we have witnessed the development of (mostly but not always) economically efficient agrosystems adapted to the globalised market and based on outside energy resources. This approach has proved fragile from the ecological point of view and is often environmentally harmful. On the other hand, in areas not conducive to simplified crop growing and intensified production, a marginalisation process has long been under way and has resulted in the abandon of rural settlements and activity. In practice, the typical polyculture systems of traditional agriculture are disappearing, especially in Southern Europe, as they are not supported by policies that counter the monoculture approach. The connection between farming and the use of animals has been broken in monoculture systems: animals no longer have any function (eg as working animals, for the recycling of crop residues, for the production of organic fertiliser, etc.) and are no longer to be found in the type of agriculture made up of autonomous production units, with the further result of a decline in landscape diversity. Emphasis on increased productivity has thus impoverished the landscape without providing a model that actually has any advantages compared with the many existing types of agriculture in Europe. Arguably, European agriculture has imported cropping systems typical of other parts of the world, such as the monoculture landscapes of North American cereal farming, without turning the identifying characteristics of European landscapes into competitive assets.

Few reports looked at forest landscape. European forests have been profoundly influenced by human activity, which has changed their characteristics in terms of their density, structure and specific composition – with the result that forests are often mistakenly referred to as “natural” areas. In terms

of surface area, we are seeing an increase in woodland in all the areas abandoned by farming and sheep-rearing. The rate of forest advance is 400,000 hectares a year in Europe. However, in some countries such as Italy, the size of the forested area has tripled over the last 100 years, a phenomenon that puts the effects of global warming into perspective. In many areas, the forests are characterised by large expanses of coniferous monoculture that replaced broad-leaved trees as a result of the approaches promoted by the forestry sciences at the beginning of the 19th Century. So what we are seeing today is a reduction in the once wide variety of traditional forest management systems (such as woodland adapted to cattle grazing and to fruit production for human consumption), a decline of wooded meadows, of shrubland, of woods for the production of forage branches, of coppicing, of resin harvesting, and of many other woodland systems closely connected with farming activities. At the same time, reforestation programmes are generally distinguished by their visually unattractive planting patterns and the use of species that do not form part of the local landscape. Finally, funding for reforestation unfortunately makes no allowance for integrating new woodland into the landscape.

The renaturalisation processes currently under way in many wooded and non-wooded areas have both positive and negative aspects following the disappearance of open spaces and the creation of compact, homogeneous, less diverse land cover which is not only detrimental to the landscape but also to biodiversity in general and to specific aspects of it. Unfortunately, like the Forest Action Plan drawn up by the European Commission, the existing indicators and criteria for sustainable forest management pay little attention to the landscape and to cultural values. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (www.mcpfe.org) recently encouraged the production of a guide for implementation of Vienna Resolution No. 3 (2003) on the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management as no such guide had been produced. The guide, which was officially presented in September 2007, advocates a division of present indicators and promotes national policy strategies and programmes that could lead to policy agreement between the 40 MCPFE member countries, something of huge relevance to the European Landscape Convention.

In many countries, neglect, changes in the rural economy, and woodland spread have brought about a big reduction in both wooded and unwooded grazing. Moreover, because of the falling numbers of free-grazing cattle and the gradual development of shed-rearing, there are far fewer herdsmen. Phenomena such as seasonal migration of livestock to grazing grounds (transhumance) are also much less common. Wooded grazing land once had many different functions, such as providing grazing cattle in the countries of Southern Europe with cooler ground for the summer months. In addition, this pastureland was often part of a production cycle that also involved the growing of crops such as cereals and helped maintain considerable landscape diversity and biodiversity of herbaceous species. Although wooded grazing land is still an important factor in countries like Spain, where it is used for the production of quality pork, it is generally being encroached upon by woodland or replanted for the production of timber. Its conservation should be strongly encouraged along with biodiversity-conserving activities in connection with habitat for numerous plant and animal species.

Quite a number of the reports dealt with rehabilitation and promotion of the built heritage. In addition to decay caused by extensive urban spread into agricultural areas, there is the problem of rehabilitating and conserving various types of buildings typical of rural manufacturing and settlements. Key factors here are the rediscovery of rural areas by non-residents and restoration work by public authorities. This raises the question of the landscape's importance not only to rural communities but also to urban ones, with export into the countryside of tangible and intangible values that form part of urban living and have the potential to exert a powerful influence on rural areas. In some cases, this creates tension between urban perceptions of the countryside and the "reality" as experienced by rural populations.

Development and enhancement of the rural landscape

Some reports went into various possible solutions to landscape conservation and enhancement as important aspects of economic development of rural areas, of quality of rural environment, and of quality of life.

From the economic point of view, rural areas can and must take advantage of “landscape as a resource”, a developmental and competitive asset which Europe’s competitors, lacking Europe’s variety of landscape, cannot replicate. In addition to the promotion of typical traditional products, this takes in the whole range of products and services associated with rural areas such as the rural tourism and recreational activities, which have grown considerably in the United States and Europe in parallel with the decrease of employment in traditional farming. Landscape-related services, which encompass everything to do with planning, implementation, logistics and management, are necessary to maintain occupations and develop new ones. However, a closer interconnection of landscapes, goods and services requires greater sensitivity on the part of administrators, the public and producers capable of influencing the market, with greater synergy of all concerned. This can be achieved through a range of measures aimed at promoting conservation of landscape resources and by paying closer attention to the connection between product quality and landscape quality and to the development of integrated approaches. Various processes need initiating to guarantee both income for workers in services that benefit the landscape and economic advantage for those entrepreneurs who move away from produce, cropping systems and conduct incompatible with the promotion of landscape as a resource. The aim is to develop economic activities which, by their nature, enhance the landscape, reduce passive conservation, apply a variety of agricultural systems according to urban development and rural infrastructure, and recognise that the “productivist” model does not promote rural areas effectively.

As regards the quality of the rural environment, it is clear that the long-standing relationship between human beings and the natural world in Europe has given landscapes considerable biological diversity, ecological functionality and visual attractiveness to match the cultural diversity that typifies the continent of Europe. The Convention should treat such variety as a strength, not a weakness. The conservation and/or rehabilitation of the landscapes concerned should seek to improve their overall quality by countering the adverse effects of certain production systems and rural exodus and by replacing inappropriate forestry and nature-conservation policies. Improvement of the rural setting should give priority to rehabilitating and maintaining the biodiversity of the landscape. However, it should not be confused with other objectives such as nature conservation, except when these objectives actually converge. It is important that action on behalf of the landscape should take account of local contexts. Measures that might have a positive impact in some landscape contexts could prove counterproductive in others. More generally, and parallel to environmental action, agricultural policies should develop specifically landscape measures and lay down precautionary measures for activities which seek to improve the environment but have not been assessed in landscape terms. The expansion of biomass production is a case in point, for here we have a development that is rapidly transforming the European landscape without any attention being paid to its impact on landscape.

The landscape is a key criterion for assessing the quality of rural life. In fact, the whole aim could be said to be landscape quality for quality of life. Projects and measures to develop and maintain landscape resources provide significant benefits given the preference for peri-urban or rural areas as permanent or temporary places of residence. The reasons for the preference for rural areas normally extend beyond mere concern for quality of individual components of the environment such as air, water or soil. The preference is influenced by overall values with a link to landscape, although these tend to be expressed in terms of “nature” or “environment”. In some parts of Europe, local people still clearly identify certain features of the landscape as bound up with local identity. Over time, local identity and its various distinguishing features have become associated with specific characteristics of the landscape. Restoration and maintenance of such identity-shaping landscape characteristics depends on the quality of initiatives by public and private players to facilitate life in rural areas, combat their abandon and encourage continued human activity. Such action, which can meet people’s recreational, emotional and spiritual needs, should not be limited to the maintenance of historical landscapes with their unique characteristics. Rather, the aim should be to maintain the whole range of functions which landscape performs today.

Future challenges

The possibilities so far suggested of applying the Convention to rural landscape require the co-ordination of national and local agricultural policies, and this cannot be done without the establishment of a cultural basis common to local public- and private-sector operators and the general public. From the operational point of view, the path to follow could be to make use of the rural development policies that many countries Parties to the Convention routinely have to implement as members of the European Union, with considerable economic resources at their disposal, while non-EU member countries could use national rural policy. From the EU standpoint, greater attention to landscape also seems fundamentally important in order to respond to growing criticism of the large financial commitment – equivalent to 42% of the European budget – to this sector, which, incidentally, is benefiting from the current reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Measures would be geared to general strategies and to action at local level, with the development of incentives, including tax relief, and the establishment of appropriate standards in the three above-mentioned sectors. The aim would be to align them to the objectives of the Convention, which do not find direct expression in the CAP. Such a strategy could be appropriately supported by the network of local offices and institutions for implementing the Convention.

Despite the opinion expressed by some speakers, the interconnecting financial measures in the three main areas of European rural development policy do not pay enough attention to this. The landscape is not mentioned in axis 1 (“Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sector”) or in axis 2 (“Improving the environment and the countryside”), although it is explicitly mentioned in axis 3 (“Improving the quality of life in rural areas”). Article 57(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development refers to “studies and investments associated with maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural heritage such as the cultural features of villages and the rural landscape”. Nevertheless, as the inclusion of the landscape in the five priority objectives of the Italian Rural Development Plan for 2007-2013 shows, it is possible to adapt certain existing measures to the landscape. This can already be done in any way they wish by all countries that have ratified the Convention, even though the lack of explicit landscape protection measures is a distinct disadvantage.

In my final comments, I turn to the Romanian experience. What prospects does the Convention offer the Romanian development process? Can landscape conservation be presented as an alternative to letting things remain as they are and preserving the historical rural landscapes, or is it necessary to develop the economy and thus destroy such landscapes, which is what the experience of most industrial countries suggests would happen? This question, which was also asked by the representatives of the Romanian Government, cannot remain unanswered as it is linked to the future of the Convention and the *volte-face* that has long been observed with regard to the concept of conservation. The idea of a conservative option opposed to the development of whatever kind has now given way to the suggestion that, on the contrary, conservation is an emerging aspect of innovation in modern society. On the one hand, all development constantly adds to heritage assets laid down in the past; on the other, there cannot be any genuine conservation without the simultaneous creation of new assets.

46% of the European rural development budget is available to Eastern European countries, including Romania. The economic resources allocated can be used with the benefit of both the positive experiences and the failures recorded by Western European countries. The project which the participants visited – bringing an abandoned terraced vineyard back into production – is an example of how a system of cultivation which modern viticulture would have considered obsolete and uneconomical until a few years ago can now be seen as a viable option. Such a rehabilitation exercise automatically creates a new landscape that cannot be the same as its predecessor. This type of experiment needs to be part of a new economic approach in which, for example, quality is linked to

the locality's distinctiveness, in this instance enabling a typical product to establish itself in the increasingly difficult wine market and developing new expertise and infrastructure based on the locality and its skills pool. As marketing experts will recognise, it is hard to sell a product that lacks history, and traces of history abound in the Romanian rural landscape.

The landscape heritage and the cultural heritage are key elements of the local and regional capital that presents development opportunities, with infrastructure of various kinds, institutional mechanisms and human resources on which to draw. Harnessing this capital needs to go beyond the exploitation of the individual resources and look to the *added value* which protection of the traditional landscape can provide. Landscape protection and enhancement can be a driving force for development in Europe by putting forward a landscape-based approach that creates distinctiveness and variety through dialogue, questioning and constant redefinition of the reference values that make up the European cultural identity.

APPENDIX 6

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS (A) AND CLOSING PRESENTATION (B) OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION ON “LANDSCAPE IN PLANNING POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE: TOWARDS INTEGRATED SPATIAL MANAGEMENT”, PIESTANY, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 24-25 APRIL 2008

Within the context of the Slovak Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (November 2007 - May 2008), the meeting was organised by the Council of Europe, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, in association with: the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic; the Slovak Environmental Agency; the Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology IALE-SK; the Trnava Self-Governing Region; the Piestany Spa-Town.

* * *

A. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Mr Peter BENUSKA, Vice-president, Slovak Chamber of Architects, Member of the European ICLEI Working Group “Local Agenda 21” for the Earth Summit 1992

Mrs Maria KOZOVA, Chair of the Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology, Comenius University, Slovakia

1. Acknowledgements

The participants in the Seventh Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention thanked the organisers – the Council of Europe, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Environmental Agency, the Slovak Association for Landscape Ecology, Trnava Self-Governing Region and Piestany Spa-Town – for the work carried out and their contribution during the meeting. They also wished to thank the Environmental Fund of the Slovak Republic, which supported the workshops;

They wished to acknowledge all those responsible for the meeting: Mrs Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, Council of Europe, Mrs Béatrice Sauvageot, Assistant, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, Council of Europe, Mrs Pavlina Misikova, National Co-ordinator for the European Landscape Convention, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and Mrs Anna Krsakova, Director of the Centre for Rural Environment of the Slovak Environmental Agency;

They would acknowledged the cooperation of the chairs, the participation of all the speakers, and all those who have taken part in and enriched the discussions with their thoughts and opinions; to the interpreters interpreted all the ideas into English, French and Slovak; and to the all the others who made the meeting pleasant and beneficial.

2. Summary of general comments

As the central topic of the meeting was “Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management”, the participants

– *reaffirmed* the importance of the European Landscape Convention (hereafter referred to as the “ELC”) as a means of implementing the principal objectives of the Council of Europe namely in seeking common solutions to the main problems facing European society; as a helpful tool in protecting the quality of life and the well-being of Europeans in at the present time of massive development when the need to take landscape, cultural and natural values into consideration is vital;

- *appreciated* the topicality of the theme of the meeting related to the growing pressure on landscape and its use in the international context; and *stressed* the need to share experiences in the enforcement of integrated approaches to landscape. Article 4 of the Convention *Division of responsibilities* and Article 5d) *Integration of landscape into policies*, were the background of the meeting, and encouraged promotion of the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions;
- *welcomed* the fact that the attention of the meeting had been drawn to the complexity of challenges in spatial planning and management facing Europe at the present time and that it will be facing on an even wider scale in the next decade; and also that attention had been paid to the practical problems related to the integration of landscape issues into spatial management in different sectors. There was general agreement that integrative spatial planning is the primary vehicle for the implementation of the ELC in member States;
- *emphasised* that the Council of Europe's member States have play a crucial role to play in assisting the development of European policies in favour of the landscape in coordination with other relevant European and international agreements;
- *note* that the ELC had already started to introduce progress in incorporating landscape into policies at European level, and, in many member States, at national, regional and local levels; so as to provide guidelines in the area of shared responsibilities at different governmental levels;
- *welcomed* the Report T-FLOR (2007)14 (Strasbourg, 25 April 2007) of the Council of Europe Conference on "The European Landscape Convention" (Strasbourg, 22 –23 March 2007);
- *warmly appreciated* Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Guidelines for the Implementation of the ELC (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 February 2008 at the 1017th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) as a guide for the continuation of the implementation process in member States;
- *welcomed* Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) which invites the member States to submit candidates for the first award before the end of 2008;
- *stressed* the importance of promoting the integration of different knowledge approaches to observation of the landscape (including economic, social, environmental, historic/cultural, perceptive/visual); and *supported* the significant role of specialists such as landscape ecologists, landscape architects, planners and related specialists in solving these issues as well as the importance of co-operation with experts from the different sectors;
- *stated* that sufficient attention was not yet paid to the landscape dimension with regard to urban and a peri-urban landscapes. An assumption that landscape is just a tool of biodiversity still exists within society. In general terms, the workshop contributed to a common understanding of landscape as a broader issue;
- *agreed* that landscape planning is a tool and basis for bringing together a common approach applicable to each sectoral policy. It is vital to create an interdisciplinary mix of working teams able to integrate natural processes into urban/rural development aimed at ensuring harmony between for example the new aesthetics and ecology of territories;

- *assumed* that a form of landscape planning derives from inter-institutional partnerships and *recognised* investigative, conservative, integrative and design functions with reference to the various levels of territorial governance;
- *encouraged* involvement of all the key players including the public and private sectors, professional organisations, NGOs, wider groups of stakeholders and their networks in sharing responsibility for landscape protection, management and planning;
- *emphasised* that an important number of the presented tools and methods are possible for the implementation of integrated approaches; and the importance of the dissemination of positive experiences at European level. A successful exchange of good (and bad) practice depends on good communication tools/skills (and on correct translations);
- *welcomed* the activities of international non-governmental organisations (e.g. preparatory work for the establishment of the European Association for Landscape Ecology as the European Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology);
- *hoped* that the 7th meeting had helped to increase the focus on planning and called for an adequate response for better implementation of the ELC as regards the appropriate management of space, which should integrate all aspects and sectors in all Council of Europe member States;
- *stated* that the 7th meeting was another step forward in the implementation of the ELC and *recommended* continuing the series of regular thematic workshops. Many contemporary initiatives and existing networks should coordinate their activities and provide information about coming events and activities.

3. Summary of comments issued from the four workshops /themes of the 7th Meeting

Workshop 1 - Landscape in integrated spatial management at pan-European level

The participants stated:

- There was an urgent need to include landscape in all relevant European sectoral policies and in relevant national laws (agriculture, regional development, energy, transport, urban development, nature protection).
- Because the importance of the Common Agricultural Policy is a driving force for landscape, there is the need of a review.
- Use integrated approach not only as a theoretical term, but aim at bringing it into practice through intersectoral co-operation.
- Support landscape planning as an instrument for integrated sustainable planning of the territories.
- As landscape is a complex system, it should be explained more broadly (eg in connection with the Water Framework Directive mentioned where an integrated approach is also used).

Workshop 2 - How to overcome sectorialism in the national measures to achieve integrated spatial management?

The participants stated:

- One possible way of harmonising competing interests in agriculture, nature conservation, water management, forests management and tourism within the cultural landscape could be through the implementation of the Programme for Village Renewal (example from Slovakia).
- The need to have a wider view of the current challenges facing cultural landscapes in Europe; and the special relationship between landscape and art mentioned by Triennial Apeldoorn, Netherlands.
- Landscape planning is not always successful. Constraints are imposed through the massive development of infrastructures, transport systems and industrial buildings. The important infrastructures shape a totally new spatial perception. There is a need to find innovative solutions for integrated spatial management.
- The Regional Landscape Plan (example from Sardinia) based on the link between environment/history/ settlements can provide a positive example of integrated planning approach.
- The process of landscape integration into development policies and legislation has started in the Russian Federation.
- Climatic changes will have an important impact on landscape. The relation between landscape and climate change should be addressed and investigated.

Workshop 3 - Integrated spatial management at regional and local levels

The participants stated:

- Terms such as nature, rural development and landscape are still used at random in local and regional policies. In the programmes “close” to landscape such as rural development and the network Natura 2000, landscape should be “easily” identified.
- Include landscape in spatial planning systems at every level should be essential.
- Rivers, as historical corridors, were used as an example of a driving force of future positive development which takes landscape into consideration. Public participation is more likely to be achieved if the public is involved in an issue they clearly understand.
- Use the “right language” (including music) as a tool to understand landscape.

Workshop 4 - Challenges and practical examples of landscape successes within integrated spatial management

The participants stated:

- There is a lot of potential and necessity to bring economic models into landscape management.
- The importance of gaining political will was also seen in the context of general problems of landscape policy implementation and wider public support.
- The need for an effective and clear monitoring system of Government Performance in the implementation of the ELC.

4. Summary from the discussion of participants and comments for:

a) *The Council of Europe*

- Promote positive European practices in the integrated spatial management.
- Continue the periodical assessment of the implementation of the ELC, present the results at Council of Europe conferences and consider methods for monitoring the implementation which already exist in each signatory state.
- Ensure an appropriate budget for the new Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape of the Council of Europe (CDPATEP).
- Encourage national governments to have a common agreement of the vision (strategy) for landscapes in their country.
- Organise joint conferences and seminars with the participation of appropriate professional organisations.
- Provide a catalogue/database of good examples of landscape management.

b) *The national governments of signatory States*

- Each ministry responsible for the implementation of the ELC should be active in inviting other ministries (whose activities have a direct or indirect impact on the landscape) to assess their impact, define new guidelines and incorporate the landscape dimension into their sectoral policies and legislation (eg plans for wind turbines, roads policies, policies for development of new settlements etc.).
- Appoint two participants from each member state to the CDPATEP plenary sessions (one responsible for cultural heritage and the other for landscape).
- Invite local and regional authorities to assess the state of implementation of the ELC within the territory for which they are responsible.
- Build-up and support the capacities of local and regional authorities dealing with an integrated vision for sustainable development where landscape is incorporated.
- Recognise the importance of the values coming from the local level also as a basis for planning processes at higher levels.
- Create a national vision/strategy on landscape development (protection, management, planning).
- Find suitable ways of networking, to link professionals, the general public and other stakeholders from different backgrounds and establish new partnerships.

c) *Local and regional self-government of signatory States*

- Local and regional policies for spatial planning should take fully into account the influence of decisions on individual and social well-being in the medium and long term. Clearly recognise that the implementation of the ELC is not solely the responsibility of national governments but to share that responsibility.

- Find ways of using and implementing ideas and opinions from the general public.
- Train local community members in conservation and development of landscape.

d) *Non-governmental organisations*

- Improve coordination in the distribution of information from related activities (eg from IALE, ICOMOS, ECLAS, INSULA/UNESCO, ENELC, Landscape Europe, Landscape Research Group, European Society for Ecological Economics, CEIRE, etc.) which deal with landscape protection, planning and management for use in awareness-raising campaigns.
- The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE):
 - Invite Council of Europe representatives to participate in the preparatory process for the European Association for Landscape Ecology (which will be established in the framework of the 2009 European IALE Conference), because it wishes to be connected to the activities of the Council of Europe.
 - Invite Council of Europe representatives and bodies responsible for the implementation of the ELC to participate in the 2009 European IALE Conference: European Landscapes in Transformation – Challenges for Landscape Ecology and Management (Salzburg, Austria, 12-16 July 2009 (www.iale2009.eu)).

e) *Universities and scientific bodies*

- Encourage the promotion of a new approach to mutual understanding between science and society. If we wish to identify and solve problems between science, technology and different stakeholders in society, we should learn about transdisciplinarity.
- Train and prepare young specialists for a European vision of integrated spatial management.
- Implement the results of the Joint Session on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) presented during the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Belgrade. These activities are important in promoting awareness of the value of landscapes in civil society and public authorities.
- Develop more research programmes on landscape.
- The need “to be engaged at the right time before the problem arrives” – be ready to bring know-how, comments, and opinions during the planning process in order not to be involved in the process “afterwards”.

5. *Closing session and study visit*

During the round table, the question under discussion was how to emphasise the need for robust and effective policies and systems for spatial planning and management with landscape as a major factor in the process of integrated spatial management.

The high-level meeting was organised during the workshops by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic with the aim of bringing together representatives of the Council of Europe and the European landscape network represented by RECEP/ENELC, UNISCAPE, and CIVILSCAPE. The state secretary presented the Slovak position as regards the process of implementation of the European Landscape Convention and he supported the idea of co-operation in the Council of Europe, the member states, the networks and all organisations which wish to be or already are involved in the implementation of the ELC.

After the close of the *Seventh Meeting of the Council of Europe of the Workshops for the Implementation of the ELC* by the organising committee on 25 April 2008, participants took part in two landscape study tours related to the discussed themes. Both optional study tours took place on Saturday 26 April 2008.

B. CLOSING PRESENTATIONS

Prospects for the European Landscape Convention

Mr Yves LUGINBUHL, Professor at the University of Paris, France, Expert of the Council of Europe

The European Landscape Convention, which has now been signed and ratified by a majority of Council of Europe member states, seems to be enjoying greater success than other European conventions. It is a source of hope in the possibility of enhancing European landscapes which have been transformed by the development of numerous public and private activities, often regarded as harmful to European citizens' quality of life.

The European Landscape Convention was drawn up by the Council of Europe, an organisation whose primary role was, and is, to safeguard and promote human rights and democracy. Incorporating landscapes into this objective was in principle no easy task, and discussions, explanations and persuasion were necessary to win people round to the idea. The vast majority of European citizens continue to identify the landscape first and foremost with the selective, elitist concept of outstanding landscapes, such as those which Unesco recognises as world heritage sites. However, as Article 2 of the Landscape Convention clearly states, its scope covers *all* landscapes:

... this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

It is possible to perceive a direct connection between this definition of the convention's scope and the spread of human rights and democracy. This is because by broadening the issue of landscapes to the everyday surroundings of people living in Europe the convention emphasises that the democratic process must also attempt to improve people's living conditions and to entitle them, through the exercise of democracy, to a say in policy decisions concerning the places where they live and work, where they travel, where they spend their leisure time, and so on. Democracy, which, to quote Winston Churchill, is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried, is a political system which gives power to the people. It functions according to rules whereby certain individuals represent the people, having been elected in their name. Elected representatives must accordingly concern themselves with the quality of people's surroundings, which is one of the conditions of access to social and individual well-being.

The European Landscape Convention is also consistent with the Aarhus Convention, which provides:

In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention moreover goes further, specifying that public participation shall be implemented from the outset:

4. Each Party shall provide for early public participation, when all options are open and effective public participation can take place.

The future prospects for the European Landscape Convention accordingly follow a quite natural course: enhancing the landscapes which form part of the quality of life for people in Europe necessitates greater democracy and, in that sense, entails public participation in the decision-making process and in ensuring justice in environmental matters. As pointed out in the Landscape Convention, improving the quality of life involves a process of identifying landscapes and their characteristics, setting landscape quality objectives, determining landscape planning, protection or management

measures and evaluating those measures. It also involves promoting education and the training of those responsible for implementing sector-specific policies, of which the landscape must be part and parcel, and raising awareness among the general public and, in particular, elected representatives.

Expressed in these terms, this foreseeable future approach seems quite logical and fairly well mapped out, although its implementation is encountering problems linked to various political, social and cognitive factors. In the current context, however, new prospects are opening up based on experiences that show European societies' capacity for action to improve the quality of life. At the same time, there is absolutely no call for euphoria. Although the European Landscape Convention has paved the way for possible action, it is still in its infancy and many obstacles stand in its way.

Difficulties in implementing the European Landscape Convention

The difficulties that may be encountered in implementing the European Landscape Convention do not solely have to do with the issue of disseminating the new definition of the landscape proposed by the Council of Europe throughout European society, not least among all national, regional and local elected representatives, although it is true that old ideas die hard, and it will take many awareness-raising activities and much persuasion to bring these politicians to espouse the principles of the European Landscape Convention in their spatial development policies. The difficulties have three main causes:

Unequal democratic progress in European countries

There can be no denying the fact that the political changes in eastern Europe were a key phase in the development of democracy. The countries formerly governed by collectivist political regimes acceded late to democracy, in the early 1990s. Democracy is not something that can be learned in one day; it is long and difficult to establish, necessitating debate and the definition of strict rules for the political functioning of societies. The forty years for which the countries of eastern Europe were governed by this authoritarian regime instilled behaviour patterns that led to a collapse of civic responsibilities, although the citizens of the countries concerned were themselves often very much aware of the political system's shortcomings.

Establishing a working democracy therefore takes time, and vigilance is necessary to avoid these shortcomings, which have often led to corruption and cronyism. This "political culture" cannot be fully erased and has left traces of behaviour that cannot qualify as truly democratic.

In this respect, countries which have lost the habit of collective debate of social issues, albeit divisive ones, encounter problems with the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which in fact recommends debate among citizens, elected representatives, practitioners, scientists, etc., as a means of arriving at policy decisions that are carefully considered and command general acceptance. Needless to say, such debate must be structured and recognised. Some doubt subsists that societies which have lived through the upheavals of collectivism can subscribe to this political principle from the outset. Time is needed for social ties to be restored and for collective debate, for the time being an often unpopular concept in ex-collectivist countries, to gain acceptance.

Conversely, the many restrictions experienced by these societies in their access to resources and to the media forged a strong sense of social solidarity, which it has been possible to observe in action in most of the countries of central and eastern Europe during periods of political tension. This is perhaps an opportunity to be exploited by those with the political will to implement the European Landscape Convention.

This observation does not, however, imply that all the countries of western Europe are shining examples of democracy. Those holding political office have indeed been elected by the people, but it is a known fact that the democratic process, in particular public participation in political decision-

making, is still not perfect or well and truly established. Attempts to involve the public in the spatial development process at local level also run into difficulties linked to the novelty of these methods and lack of practice, to improvisation, to the role played by certain local leaders and also, it must be said, to fear of speaking out in local communities where family or neighbourhood quarrels have left their mark.

Unequal living standards in European countries

It is self-evident that living standards and access to wealth, amenities, job security, health protection, etc. are not equal in Europe. There is also clearly a difference between western and eastern Europe in this respect.

It is accordingly inconceivable that the nations of central and eastern Europe should not seek to catch up this shortfall. The European Union of course plays a major role here by fostering investment in these countries' economies, communication systems, etc. The situation could be compared with that of Spain and Portugal when they first joined the EU. Thirty years later, these countries have made huge progress in terms of both democracy and economic growth. The considerable sums invested by the European Commission have been a driving force for their development.

The transition to democracy in central and eastern Europe has however gone hand in hand with the introduction of free market economies, which have their advantages and their drawbacks. The latter include a tendency towards individualism and to seek to maximise profits at all costs. This is understandable. That individuals in eastern Europe who experienced hardship should wish to acquire the consumer goods available in western Europe is in point of fact logical. However, the speed of development entails a risk that landscape considerations may be disregarded in the very short term. Building and infrastructure projects, investments in energy production installations, industrial plant and so on, may be decided fast and with scant regard for environmental and landscape criteria. These decisions lead to transformations in the landscape which may jeopardise its quality. In the farming sector the fact that certain regions of eastern Europe are lagging behind may tempt them to switch to the intensive farming methods that have severely altered western European landscapes and could have harmful consequences for biodiversity and sustainable development.

It is therefore understandable that certain central and east European countries should be concerned to contain these trends and wish to implement binding measures so as to control, through coercion, the processes that transform the landscape. However, it is by no means certain that making the European Landscape Convention a EU Directive would really have effective results. Moreover, the convention's very essence lies in the fact that it is non-binding and wagers on capacities for negotiation and discussion among those involved. It would accordingly run counter to the spirit of the convention to seek to make it binding.

Unequal degrees of knowledge among European players

The European Landscape Convention undoubtedly qualifies as something of a success in the light of the number of signatures and ratifications by Council of Europe member states. However, it must be acknowledged that this success is above all an outcome of the mobilisation of a restricted group of like-minded persons, who have succeeded in initiating a movement, thanks to the action taken by the Council of Europe of course and also to networking and to the sincere commitments of certain politicians. Many players remain to be convinced and to commit themselves to the convention's fundamental objective of enhancing the everyday landscapes of the bulk of European citizens.

Here too it is a matter of inequality, of unequal knowledge and understanding of the complexity of the processes linking the landscape to politics, ecology, social issues, etc. This is not merely a question of awareness-raising but concerns a deep lack of knowledge of the history of landscapes and of their links with political or ecological processes.

This objective of enhancing the everyday landscape of European citizens opens up a complex new field. The European scientific community which has taken an interest in these matters is only recently established and not yet well-organised, despite the action of specialist NGOs. Although knowledge has progressed, there are still whole areas where ignorance reigns, in particular concerning the processes whereby the disciplines involved interact. However, this issue of knowledge does not just affect the scientific sphere. Among the non-scientists involved a landscape culture is cruelly lacking, which does not mean that they are insensitive to these matters. An entire knowledge process must be developed, based on revelation rather than learning.

Everyone has their own sensibilities regarding the landscape, but these have been masked by beliefs, stereotypical ideas or hackneyed political and social models. Awareness-raising is not enough: it is necessary to reveal to people, through these existing, but often buried social sensibilities, what quality of life and spatial development issues mean for them. It is in particular through debate and hands-on experience that these sensibilities can be brought to light and lead to the espousal of an essential objective: reconciling the individual and the general interest and, conversely, ensuring that the general interest also reflects a convergence of individual interests. This is of course an ambitious objective, but experiences of its pursuit virtually all over Europe show that the efforts are not in vain.

Another knowledge-linked question is posed: that of evaluation. Landscape planning, protection and management experience to date has scarcely been subject to strict evaluation. This is essential, as, without evaluation, no universally applicable lesson learned from this experience can be validated.

Despite these obstacles, it is possible to envisage prospects for the future implementation of the European Landscape Convention that are consistent with the principles of promotion of human rights and democracy defended by the Council of Europe.

Development prospects for the European Landscape Convention

In contrast with the difficulties mentioned above, certain factors are conducive to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and augur well for its future. These are linked to higher standards of education in Europe, to a growing awareness of ecological problems and of the dangers posed by climate change, to social demand that politicians listen to grassroots aspirations for society, and to greater expectations regarding enhancement of the quality of life.

Conditions conducive to the development of the European Landscape Convention

- a) *A rise in standards of education.* The general level of education of people in Europe has undoubtedly progressed. Although this progress has probably been unevenly distributed,¹ it has made people better able to understand the processes of social and environmental change taking place and, above all, more thirsty for knowledge of them. It is nonetheless true that, at the same time as standards were rising, some young Europeans, particularly in large conurbations, suffered the adverse consequences of the slowdown in economic growth. However, generally speaking, the training dispensed by education systems has improved and, in particular, the system of European exchanges has helped push up levels of education and of knowledge. There has been no full evaluation of the European exchange programmes for students and academics, but these schemes hopefully help foster curiosity about processes of socio-economic and ecological change in Europe: exchanges, notably access to knowledge of other countries' experiences, are a means of

¹ In this connection see Eurydice, Education and Culture DG, 2007, "Key data on higher education in Europe". The data shows an increase in the number of higher education graduates, although the percentage of graduates in the population as a whole remains small. However, this percentage was calculated for all the age cohorts. The charts show a considerable difference in the percentage of graduates between the youngest and the oldest cohorts.

enriching young people's cognitive potential, making them more capable of independent thought and of drawing comparisons between situations in different countries and regions.

This rise in standards of education could be assimilated with the emergence of societies that are more ready for debate, that is to say more capable of initiating discussion, assessing the impact and the implications of policy decisions and raising the question of their improvement. Without seeing the future through rose-tinted glasses, which is naturally not the aim here, this increased capacity for debate can be regarded as beneficial to the introduction of procedures or platforms for debate whereby public participation in the definition of landscape quality objectives can become more feasible and more effective.

- b) *Greater ecological awareness.* Although environmental concerns have not led to the emergence of truly powerful "green" parties in Europe, there is no denying the fact that worries about the future of the planet, and climate change in particular, have fostered the development of a social conscience regarding environmental matters. All the traditional political parties have moreover given their manifestos an environmental dimension, and sustainable development objectives are omni-present, even in the titles of national ministries.

This greater ecological awareness is also attributable to tendencies European citizens are able to see for themselves as they go about their daily lives and to certain health impacts, particularly in regions strongly affected by heavy industrial activities, notably in the chemicals sector. In some regions, although the political authorities may attempt to cover up the facts, illnesses are on the rise and epidemiological studies have shown an increasing number of cancers or allergies due to environmental damage.

The observed decline in the quality of foodstuffs plays an essential role in this greater ecological awareness. In France perceptions of the landscape have changed over the last two decades – formerly identified with rural areas, it is now associated with nature – precisely because of problems linked to intensive farming. Fears about bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) caused a 40% drop in consumption of meat over a sufficiently long period for people to call into question intensive, industrialised production methods. Other health scares have included foot-and-mouth disease, avian flu and, of course, pollution of water sources with nitrates and agricultural pesticides. All these news stories have caused people to become wary of "modern" industrial farming methods and raised awareness of environmental issues. Mention must be made of the fact that young people attach more importance to these issues than the older generations, which is moreover understandable. Young people's greater ecological awareness is an asset for the future of environment and landscape policies.

- c) *Greater demand by citizens to be lent an ear.* Surveys conducted at various times and places by scientists (sociologists, geographers, anthropologists) show a growing desire, and even demand, among citizens that politicians should listen to them. This can be seen both in the growing number and rising membership of various kinds of citizens' movements and also in the converse tendency of a not insignificant number of people to lose confidence in politicians, sometimes reflected in high abstention rates during elections.

It is true that such mobilisation is more often than not to be observed at local level, where the population indeed have the impression that they can more effectively influence local policy decisions. Recent surveys in France show the emergence of movements taking the form of local associations or of branches of national NGOs. This applies for instance to the many local pressure groups against the building of wind farms or domestic waste incinerators. The construction of the high speed rail links has led to the emergence of, sometimes violent, protest movements, as was the case with the building of the South-East TGV line. In England, the construction of the high-speed train link between Dover and London was delayed because of landscape concerns. Numerous examples could be cited. This of course does not mean that all infrastructure projects

systematically meet with public opposition. Local people are more often than not in favour of such projects, although they are increasingly being challenged, a sign of this growing social awareness.

- d) *Expectations regarding enhancement of the quality of life.* These are clearly linked to the process described above. However, a distinction can be drawn between the two sets of demands, since concerns about the quality of life are not systematically bound up with ecological issues, but have more to do with problems encountered in people's daily lives, particularly at a local level. Local communities are indeed very vigilant about transformations of their living conditions.

Some observers consider that this vigilance reflects fear of change. However, assimilating protest about transformation of living conditions with fear of change is, firstly, an over-simplification and, secondly, a form of disregard for citizens' concerns. Fear of change has to do with the distrust of political circles described above and with legitimate concerns that change will result in transformations of living conditions that leave people worse off than before.

Change must naturally be precisely and carefully explained, so as not to leave people with the impression that it benefits only a privileged section of the population, but on the contrary show that it aims to serve the general interest. The desire to be given a hearing, combined with expectations regarding enhancement of the quality of life, thus calls for an information effort and, above all, for the initiation of public debate, but under precise, that is to say organised, conditions.

Organised public debate

The European Landscape Convention underlines the need for public participation in the process of identifying landscapes and determining landscape planning, protection and management measures. However, it does not say what form this public participation should take, rightly leaving the choice to those involved, whether at the national, regional or local level.

Observation of the past experience of many European countries, particularly in western Europe, shows how vital it is not to improvise public participation but to give careful consideration to methods and arrangements whereby the various factors to be taken into account can be duly weighed.

- a) *The form taken by the debating platform* will depend on the level at which the debate takes place. The local level is clearly the most appropriate for public participation. However, that level alone cannot suffice. In matters of landscape policy there is a need to ensure consistency between local government measures, and development schemes, such as those concerning transport infrastructure, which are often implemented at higher levels. We shall come back to this later. For the time being, let us focus on the local level.

Public participation can take different forms, as can be seen from current experience: public meetings, on-line forums, organised joint field visits, festive events that may constitute an opportunity to initiate a debate. As pointed out by the specialists who have studied the experiences already under way, chairing or moderating a debate is an important aspect. However, the chair or moderator cannot replace the practitioners whose task it is to make formal proposals. While organising speaking turns and times, the person chairing or moderating the debate must remain in the background and allow the discussion to develop freely.

Public debate can also be conceived as a series of steps which contribute to the process recommended by the European Landscape Convention: identifying landscapes, setting landscape quality objectives, determining landscape planning, protection and management measures. In organising the timing of the public participation process, it is also essential to avoid skipping certain steps and to allow time for ideas arising from the initial discussions to mature. Ideally, the participants should perhaps be allowed to decide on the timing they prefer.

- b) *Placing debate on a formal footing.* The proceedings must result in the production of various kinds of documents: maps of landscapes of local interest, local know-how atlases, sketches, block diagrams showing the knowledge of the participants present during the debate. This documentation process is an essential step, since it ensures that a record is kept of the debate. It is what will survive of it and can testify to the importance of the debate at the local level; it is also a form of transmission of the participants' knowledge and concerns. This is a field where innovatory solutions are called for so that the outcome is clearly legible for all the participants.
- c) *The participants' place and role.* Distribution of the roles among the various parties involved (elected representatives, technicians, chairs or moderators, scientists, NGOs, local people) should not convey the impression that decisions lie with the population. The argument that participation leads to disorder is merely a strategic criticism relied on by this method's opponents. It is for the policy-makers to take decisions, that is to say the elected representatives, who must assume the responsibility for which they were in point of fact elected. It is particularly with this aspect in mind that a debate must be organised, so as to counter suspicions of disorder and ineffectiveness that may hang over participation arrangements. The scientists propose scientific insights, the technicians the possible solutions and local people their specific knowledge of the area concerned. These contributions may be supplemented by NGOs. But it is for the elected representatives to take decisions.
- d) *Mobilising knowledge* is also a means of organising debate. A debate can be an opportunity to gather grassroots or lay knowledge and information on the values attached to the area concerned, thereby contributing to the identification of landscapes. However, it is important to think about how and when the scientific and technical inputs will be made – at the beginning, in the course or at the end of the debate? These issues must indeed be addressed and thought through depending on the form taken by the debate and its assigned objectives.

This mobilisation of knowledge must aim for interaction between grassroots or lay knowledge and scientific knowledge, with the aim of fostering a deliberate, well-informed exchange. It is clear that scientific knowledge has an essential role, but that of lay or naturalistic knowledge is just as important, as it is a source of information the scientists cannot necessarily contribute. At the same time, performing surveys prior to the debate is also a means of defusing internal quarrels or misunderstandings: an experience along these lines conducted in the Alps showed that publicising the results of surveys concerning the perception of the landscape within the local community enabled those partaking in the debate to realise that other people's views differed from their own and to accept other standpoints.

- e) *Validating the conclusions of the debate.* This may seem to be a mere formality, but it is nonetheless of essential symbolic importance. Validating the documents produced marks the agreement reached by all the participants and is a form of recognition, firstly, of their commitment and motivation and, secondly, of the shared acceptance of the discussions' conclusions.

Interaction between policy-making tiers

We have seen that the local level is that at which public participation in the policy-making process leading to the determination of landscape protection, management or planning measures can most easily be envisaged. However, the question has also been raised of wider scales of action in spatial development matters, such as those involved in transport infrastructure projects or in schemes for the protection of larger-than-local landscapes.

The resulting need for consistency between the measures implemented on different scales also entails interaction between the different levels. Although, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, priority is to be given to the local tier, it is nonetheless absolutely vital to be able to combine planning, protection and management priorities. Interaction means simultaneously applying a "bottom-up" and a

“top-down” approach. For economic reasons it may be advisable for the regional or national level to manage an infrastructure or protection scheme, in which case the information will flow from the national or the regional to the local tier, and conversely local wishes and demands can inform public policy at national level.

This may apply, in particular, to sector-specific policies, which must take into consideration the landscape dimension, as stipulated in the convention. For instance, the Common Agricultural Policy should be able to take on board local demands regarding the management of rural landscapes. Easier said than done, some might say. However, it is a known fact that sector-specific policies (farming, housing, energy, etc.) have a far more radical effect on the landscape, and those policies are sometimes guided by decisions taken at an international level (WTO) or linked to processes over which the local level has no control. It is accordingly essential to manage to swing sector-specific policies towards greater consideration of the landscape dimension.

The gamble that can be taken here consists in assuming that, under the bottom-up process, local demands will transit via political channels to reach the policy-makers at national level, who will in turn relay these expectations to the international level. This is in a way what happens in Europe in the case of EU environmental regulations, although it must be acknowledged that this process is not divorced from the action of the NGOs who lobby the Commission in Brussels (an example being Agenda 21).

Consideration of this landscape dimension is just as necessary in the European policy field. If, as shown by the work commissioned by the discussion group on implementation of the European Landscape Convention, there are numerous programmes of action that claim to take an interest in landscape issues,² it is essential that this concern should not be solely linked to spatial development or educational schemes, but should also be strongly connected with economic policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy in particular.

Experimentation and evaluation through feedback

In many countries of Europe, a large number of varied local experiences are taking place, which may or may not profess to identify with the spirit of the European Landscape Convention. They are in point of fact based on public participation in either the identification of landscapes or the definition of landscape planning, protection or management projects. They rely on different methods and are, in a way, innovative and experimental in their approach.

It might be said that this is where the future lies and that earlier developments were merely based on observation of these experiences and more general considerations. However, although involving local players is valuable and is to be encouraged, it is necessary to draw lessons from it that permit progress to be made with the European Landscape Convention’s methods and implementation. It is therefore vital to evaluate this approach to see whether it is effective and is worth enhancing, improving, discussing and disseminating via the networks of NGOs and local and regional authorities.

The main lesson that can be drawn from these experiences lies in their ability to culminate in a genuine landscape protection, management or planning project at local level. How can this local landscape project be construed? A local landscape project must not be confused with an architectural or infrastructure project with a given time-limit. The landscape is constantly changing and it would be pointless to seek to set a time-limit on a landscape project. When the measures devised are applied they will already be outdated and their future implementation will need to be reviewed. A landscape project involves an ongoing process, which produces information of value for future developments.

² Examples being the Interreg, COST and Erasmus programmes. See the report *European programmes: opportunities for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention* (T-FLOR (2008) 2 Prov.)

This therefore means that a landscape project is a process that begins with the identification of landscapes via public participation, goes through a stage of discussion and validation of landscape quality objectives and culminates in the definition of landscape protection, management and planning measures. Once the ball has been set rolling, there will be no end to the process, which feeds on its own experience, and the lessons learned from the process itself influence the decisions, which are subject to review as their implementation creates a new landscape or modifies an existing one. This does not mean that decisions are reversed, but on the contrary that the way the process is conducted makes it possible to improve the methods and to make progress with the definition of landscape protection, management and planning measures.

This constitutes a novel approach to landscape activities and can bring innovations in the ways communities interact with the landscapes in which they live and which are part and parcel of their existence. It also represents a new perception of these communities' relations with the political sphere, as, if the process enables their effective participation, they will feel that they are listened to, and their landscape will bear the marks of this. This is also a way of conferring greater responsibilities on citizens and enabling them to identify with landscapes they have helped to shape and to breath life into.

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APPENDIX 7

**DRAFT RESOLUTION (2009).. OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION AND
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on ...
at theth meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;
2. Having regard to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened to member states for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000;
3. Recalling that Article 14 related to accession in the European Landscape Convention states that, after the entry into force of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite the European Community to accede to the Convention by a majority decision as provided for Article 20.d of the Council of Europe Statute, and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers;
4. Decide to encourage the European Community to take into account landscape quality objectives as defined in the European Landscape Convention in those sectoral policies within its competence, in particular the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, the environment, water and regional policies.

APPENDIX 8

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE PROGRAMME OF
ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION CONCERNING
LANDSCAPE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS-RAISING
PRESENTED TO THE 5TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

8.1. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Benedetta CASTIGLIONI, as expert of the Council of Europe, on “Landscape and education of children” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 12]

8.2. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Ingrid SARLOV HERLIN, as expert of the Council of Europe, on “Training of landscape architects” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 13]

8.3. Introduction and summary of the report prepared and presented by Mr Terry O'REGAN, as expert of the Council of Europe, on “European Local Landscape Circle Studies” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 14]

8.4. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Chantal PRADINES, as expert of the Council of Europe, on “Road infrastructures: tree-lined avenues in the landscape” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 15]

8.5. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Marina KULESHOVA and Mrs Tamara SEMENOVA, as expert of the Council of Europe, on “Landscape and Ethics” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 16]

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**8.1. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Benedetta CASTIGLIONI,
expert of the Council of Europe, on “Landscape and education of children”
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 12]**

Conclusions/Recommendations: Promotion of Education on Landscape

1. European landscapes are the result of a long history of interrelations between humanity and nature, expressing the stratification of different cultures that built them through the centuries. European landscapes have great value as natural and cultural heritage, and need to be safeguarded and valued in order for further sustainable development.
2. The European Landscape Convention gives great importance to the relationship between people and landscape. On the one hand landscape is part of people's well-being, consolidating territorial identities; on the other hand landscape requires a certain awareness, knowing, wise behavior and a willingness to assume responsibility in taking direct or indirect actions.
3. *“Education is a driving force for the change needed”*. This is one of the basic statements of the UN Decade for Education on Sustainable Development 2005-2014 (UNDESD), promoting education as one of the main targets to achieve sustainability. In this frame, the European Landscape Convention proposes Education on Landscape as one of the first necessary specific measures (art. 6, B, c). Due to the strong connections existing between landscape and sustainability issues, Education on Landscape is one of the best possible ways for implementing Education for Sustainable Development.
4. Landscape is not only the visual aspect of places, in a strictly aesthetic approach. It is the “surface” of a spatial entity, where many different factors, both natural and human, act and interact. Landscape should be considered a tool for understanding spatial processes in depth and discovering different cultures and different environmental contexts. All landscapes should be investigated, not only the exceptional ones, in order to find out what is below the “surface”.
5. The ability to read landscape is therefore an important means for a better knowledge of both the nearby and the distant world. Being a means available to all people, it can be implemented to some extent simply by making careful observations, without special research instruments. It is the way, for example, of widening and enriching the relationship between the tourist and visited places, if people become used to reading “through” the landscape.
6. Since landscape possesses a high value, culture and identity-wise, Education on Landscape can play a relevant role in facilitating cultural integration processes in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural contexts, nowadays so common throughout Europe. Hence landscape represents a way for a better knowledge of different places and cultures;
7. People generally behave with greater care towards landscape after they have got used to reading it and recognising the effects human actions have on it. Namely, learning to act responsibly first requires learning to see.
8. Education on Landscape is education at all levels: intellectual, emotional and practical. It deals with knowledge, feelings and hands-on activities. Therefore it is a very good tool for helping with the upbringing process of children, enhancing all their potentialities and their wholeness as people.
9. *In consequence, the Conference of the Council of Europe on the European Landscape Convention and then the CDPATEP, are invited to examine a possible request to the Committee of Ministers to recommend to the Member States to:*
 - 9.1. include Education on Landscape programs in primary and secondary school curricula, within the programs devoted to Education for Sustainable Development or, more generally as part of “citizen’s education”;
 - 9.2. encourage special training in Education on Landscape for teachers; teacher’s training is important not only to gather information on local landscapes but mainly for sharing didactic

objectives and acquiring methodology; such training should always have an interdisciplinary character and help in improving the habit of working in teams;

- 9.3. provide schools with materials for the implementation of activities on Education on Landscape. The material should cover both content and methodology and should be specially oriented to different school levels; exceptional or beautiful landscapes should never be the only landscapes addressed; everyday-life landscapes should be mainly addressed, even when they show contradictions and provoke questions;
- 9.4. support projects concerning Education on Landscape at national and international level in order to encourage exchanges among children coming from different places; such projects should be carefully designed to make children aware of the specificity and identity values of both their local landscapes and faraway landscapes;
- 9.5. promote the use of ICTs in Education on Landscape projects, since this technique presents high potential for this kind of activities; it is useful for understanding landscape as an entity consisting of a net of relationships, a “hyper-landscape”; it is also useful because it allows the use of different kinds of media (texts, pictures, drawings, videos, sounds, etc.), because it allows children from different places, working on similar projects, to contact each other, and finally because it can disseminate the results of Education on Landscape projects to a wider public;
- 9.6. support all the possible ways and occasions for sharing best practices on Education on Landscape; this will encourage teachers and school managers to implement such activities more and more, applying the most effective approaches and methodologies, in accordance with their school level and local context;
- 9.7. promote the involvement of different partners and sponsors in Education on Landscape projects; this will create useful networks especially among partners directly interested in culture dissemination and the promotion of landscape values;
- 9.8. establish a Commission on Education on Landscape at national and/or regional level with the cooperation of those departments of the national/regional administration that are concerned with the landscape (spatial planning, environment, sustainable development, cultural heritage, etc.) and the coordination of the Education department; the Commission should become a reference point for Education on Landscape and its main commitment should be diffusing Education on Landscape issues. This could be done by providing the necessary support in terms of materials and methodologies as well as by directly starting activities and projects, or helping local administrations or single schools in organising them.

**8.2. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Ingrid SARLOV HERLIN,
expert of the Council of Europe, on “Training of landscape architects”
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 13]**

Conclusions / Recommendations

Establishing New Landscape Architecture Programmes (Recommendation to universities and governmental bodies responsible for higher education):

1. The key role which the discipline of landscape architecture should play in the implementation of the Convention makes it important that corresponding accredited and professionally recognised higher education programmes are established by all contracting states (Article 6.B.c).
2. In those countries where it may not be feasible to establish a full degree programme, due to the size of the country, arrangements should be made with existing accredited degree programmes in other countries to provide the necessary specialist inputs to existing related degree programmes. (professional or academic).
3. Landscape architecture programmes should conform to the recommendations set out in the Tuning Project report ‘Tuning Landscape Architecture Education in Europe’ prepared by ECLAS, and to the recommendations on landscape architecture education published by the International Federation of Landscape Architects. This means that there needs to be a good balance between theoretical knowledge and understanding of factors affecting landscapes and their perception as well as practical skills in project development and implementation.
- 3.a. It is important that landscape architecture education equips graduates to work across a wide range of scales and to understand the interaction between local action at the site level and its implications for landscape character at a wider scale.

Adapting Existing Landscape Architecture Programmes (recommendation to existing programmes at universities):

4. In contracting states to the Convention where landscape architecture degree programmes already exist, it is important that their content is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is optimised with regard to the needs of the Convention. In particular this will involve:
 - Having a good understanding of the legal status of landscapes (Article 5 a);
 - Being conversant with the role and importance of landscape policies for protection, management and planning (Article 5 b);
 - Understanding of the role and application of public participation in the landscape planning, design and management process (Article 5 c)
 - Knowledge of how landscape legislation and policies relate to relevant neighbouring fields and disciplines (Article 5 d)
 - Good theoretical knowledge and practical skills in landscape analysis and assessment (Article 6.C.a. and b.)
 - Understanding processes of landscape change and how to monitor them (Article 6)

In reviewing the content and structure of existing degree programmes it is important that the role and contribution of other disciplines is actively reviewed.

5. The accreditation process for degree programmes should have an appropriate international dimension (Article 8)

Accreditation of Landscape Architecture Programmes (recommendation to accreditation agencies):

6. A formal part of the statutory accreditation process of landscape architecture degree programmes should be concerned with the degree to which the programme meets the needs of the Convention (see recommendation 4).

Relationship between the profession and education:

7. There should be a formalised relationship between the professional body in a country and the education programme in order to ensure that degree programmes continue to meet the needs of practice with regard to the competences of graduates in terms of their knowledge, skills and understanding relating to the implementation of the Convention.

Provision of specialist training programmes for professionals:

8. Landscape architecture programmes should take the initiative in developing and offering in-service training programmes to officials involved in both policy making and the day to day implementation of national legislation and policies relating to the Convention.

Continuing Professional Development:

9. The requirements of the implementation of the Convention should be integrated into the required training programmes for Professionals in practice.

Dialogues with neighbouring disciplines:

10. Landscape architecture teaching in the degree programmes of neighbouring disciplines is needed to improve cooperation between landscape architecture and these disciplines.

Research-led teaching - the link between teaching and research:

11. Teaching needs to be linked to research, especially but not only at the level of the second Bologna cycle.

Research training and advanced teaching to build capacity at landscape architecture programmes:

12. With the needs of the European Landscape Convention in mind, there is a need to develop a European approach to upgrading and improving pedagogic strategies, advanced teaching skills and research capabilities within the context of existing landscape architecture programmes. A European level institution for advanced studies in landscape architecture should be established to pursue this goal.

**8.3. Introduction and summary of the report prepared and presented by Mr Terry O'REGAN,
expert of the Council of Europe, on "European Local Landscape Circle Studies"
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 14]**

Introduction

Decisions that profoundly affect the quality of your landscape are invariably taken in offices very far from where you live. The politicians, administrators and businesspeople taking those decisions are more likely to demonstrate sensitivity towards landscape quality in a society that demonstrates an informed knowledge and understanding of their landscape/surroundings. Undertaking a 'Landscape Circle' study will assist you and your community in being party to those decisions.

We all tend to take our landscape for granted – whether we regard it as good or bad. However, in much of Europe we have been fortunate to inherit a landscape of an exceptionally high quality in parts. As with many things that come easy we have not always appreciated our good fortune. We have not always actively participated in the processes that are impacting on the quality of our landscape. That might have been acceptable in times past when the pace of change was leisurely and the landscape often managed to heal its own wounds. Times have changed dramatically in the past 50 years and problems arise when someone decides that as we put no value on it, they will 'take' it from us and replace it with something that may be very inferior.

This guide is intended to assist all those individuals, groups, communities, organisations, societies, clubs or schools who would wish to exercise responsible ownership over their landscape, in undertaking a 'Landscape Circle Study' of their area. A landscape circle study involves selecting a circle of landscape and studying and recording its history, its evolution, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and the actions and actors who might respond to those characteristics. The guide offers advice on ways to undertake and complete a successful landscape circle study.

You do not need to be an expert to undertake the study. You will not require specialised terminology and the depth of the study is at your discretion. All that is required is an interest in landscape and a desire to influence the nature and extent of the changes it undergoes in your lifetime and beyond. As with all successful human ventures you should however draw on expert knowledge where possible.

The quality of landscape is decided by its different elements, natural and human-made and the extent of their representation, distribution and most importantly their overall composition in the landscape.

It is easy to forget the urban landscape with so many books written about the rural landscape. Yet we increasingly live in an urban landscape, the landscape circle works just as well in the city as in the countryside.

It should be possible for anyone to undertake an effective landscape study using this handbook and the Council of Europe publication '*The European Rural Heritage Observation Guide*'. The Council of Europe will encourage the organisation of workshops to assist those undertaking 'Landscape Circle' studies.

The key outcome of the study will centre round a report documenting the scoping of the study area, its history and evolution, its landscape elements, an in-depth critical analysis of its characteristics and an action plan for the future management of the landscape being studied.

The study report will provide the basis for many other powerful initiatives such as exhibitions, DVD's, web sites, planning submissions, proactive engagement with those intervening in the landscape such as government officials, developers, etc.

All studies are open to the accusation of subjectivity and indeed most if not all studies reflect a degree of subjectivity. The more systematic and thorough the study is the more it will overcome this potential weakness. Testing the conclusions of the study with the residents of the area is useful in defending the report. The fact that everything in the circle, good and bad, must be considered is in itself a defence against subjectivity.

It is expected that studies will vary in scope and depth depending on whether they are individual studies or group studies. It would be the aim of the Council of Europe that in time communities undertaking studies will meet other communities at state and European level to compare results, experience, challenges and solutions. Subject to available resources the Council of Europe will facilitate such gatherings.

Summary

The landscape circle template is intended to encourage and assist individuals and groups to undertake an in-depth analytical study of their landscape incorporating a dynamic landscape observatory and resulting in a landscape management action plan.

It involves 7 integrated steps and could be completed in 6 to 12 months. Completing such a study will heighten and inform your awareness of your landscape and place you in a very strong position to participate in the inevitable processes of change taking place in your landscape.

Step 1 - Scoping the Study Area: using the most readily available map of the area (a scale of 1:50,000 would appear to be appropriate), a landscape circle is selected for the study area. (permission to copy or reproduce maps may be required from the relevant agency). The radius of the circle should be at least 1 km for urban studies, 2 - 3 kms for a small town or village plus its hinterland and up to 5km for rural landscapes of low complexity.

Step 2. Research: There are three interrelated sections to researching your study – 1. - understanding landscape, 2. - understanding the landscape of the state and 3. - understanding the landscape of your selected circle. This will involve your own reference book resources, libraries, bookshops, local authority facilities and the internet. The readily available European Rural Heritage Observation Guide – CEMAT is a recommended study text. The research should result in a written description of the history and evolution of your landscape.

Step 3. Creating an Image Observatory:- This exercise involves sourcing old images of your landscape and comparing them with photographs of the same landscape today. In addition a current representative photographic portfolio of the existing landscape must be compiled to be replicated in subsequent years.

Step 4. Information gathering: The objective of the identification process is to list the elements of the landscape in each circle – separated into the landscape strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. A specific location for each element should be identified on the map, although for dispersed elements it may be adequate to refer to a particular quadrant of a circle.

The identification of landscape elements will range over the built (old and new), the natural and archaeological heritage as well as ‘non-heritage’ elements. It also adds its own important component – an understanding of the composition of the landscape and the interrelationship between existing built and natural heritage, and present-day interventions, e.g., construction work or changed land use practices.

The extent by which landscape elements are common, occasional or rare must be recorded and the pattern of their occurrence should be indicated by shading or cross-hatching a map section.

Step 5. Evaluating your landscape: Because the landscape is a composition of many elements and 'jigsaw pieces', an analytical process is required. The LANSWOT analysis (Landscape Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) is highly suited to evaluating the diverse elements of our landscape in the context of their role in defining and deciding landscape quality.

It lends itself to everyday use in avoiding the complexity of deep scientific analysis, whilst inviting individuals and communities to adopt a structured, critical approach in their assessment of their landscape. It has the added advantage of enabling communities in different locations to compare and contrast their conclusions in a comparative framework.

Step 6. Identifying Landscape Management Actions and Actors: Landscape Management involves identifying/recording the actors and the actions needed in response to the prioritised lists produced by the LANSWOT analysis, encouraging best practice; where possible leading to the conservation of landscape elements (or at least a continuity of these elements within the landscape); and determining the character of interventions in order to - reinforce the strengths, address the weaknesses, capitalise on the opportunities and avert or mitigate the threats.

This stage is about identifying with the landscape and participating actively, rather than passively, in the landscape management process, in a manner appropriate to the scale involved.

Step 7. The Landscape Study Report and other Outputs: A landscape study report will feature the following:

- An introduction to the study identifying the study area – the selected circle;
- A description of the landscape of the selected circle, its history and evolution;
- A landscape observatory of the circle;
- A prioritised listing of its landscape strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- An associated listing of the actions and actors involved in the landscape management of the area;
- An action plan to publicise and give effect to the conclusions of the study

Completing a landscape circle study report will achieve much in informing and alerting you about your landscape. We recommend you to take some further important steps to communicate and validate your work to your immediate and greater community by progressing to one or more measures and thus become a landscape active community and/or individual.

***8.4. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Chantal PRADINES,
expert of the Council of Europe, on “Road infrastructures: tree-lined avenues in the landscape”
[Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 15]***

Conclusions / Recommendations

Following the golden age of tree-lined roads in the 19th and early 20th centuries, a significant proportion of the trees growing alongside Europe’s roads and streets – as much as 90% in some regions – has disappeared due to a natural ageing process or as a result of epidemics or pests, but above all because of road schemes and misjudged road-safety policies.

Replantings have by no means compensated for these losses, due to the introduction of planting distances which are incompatible with land ownership realities, through a loss of interest on the part of the relevant managers and through the lack of dedicated budgetary provision.

Mistreatment and inappropriate practice are accelerating the decline of the remaining trees.

However, tree-lined roads and streets constitute an important shared heritage in the history of Europe. Drawing on a 500-year tradition, they help to define and enhance the specificity and unique identity of each individual region. They give the landscape a noble, living architecture which has been a continual source of inspiration to painters, writers and indeed the general public. They bear witness to local history, they play an important role in terms of climate, pollution and biodiversity and they contribute to road safety. Overall these qualities endow them with a heritage asset value which is recognised by insurance companies but generally disregarded by other players and which is in any case substantially under-estimated.

A well thought-out management policy benefits the entire tree-related sector, the tourist industry, real estate, the low-qualified workforce and the health and well-being of the entire population.

Taking these factors into consideration, we make the following recommendations:

- That governments and public authorities should recognise tree-lined roads and streets as a form of cultural identity which is inextricably linked to their inherent environmental and road safety functions and must therefore be safeguarded.
- That the pre-eminence of aesthetic considerations as the guiding principle of past and future planting schemes should be reminded;
- That this recognition should be enshrined in a body of regulations;
- That conservation requires retaining existing trees, restructuring them through pruning as necessary in order to prevent any risk of mechanical failure;
- That conservation also requires restoring the heritage, both by systematic gap filling and by planting complete new avenues to compensate for past fellings;
- That this conservation should no longer be based on the use of wood for construction purposes or heating, but on the recognition of shared cultural and environmental values and on tree-lined roads’ contribution to the landscape, to road safety, and to general well-being;
- That this also includes single rows of trees and all roadside trees, whatever the distance between them and the roadway;

- That this should not include any regulation stipulating minimum planting distances;
- That account should be taken of all operations which damage the asset value of tree avenues (felling, all kinds of mistreatment including earthworks, lowering water tables, etc.);
- That regulations should be introduced to set compensation levels for all tree fellings or for damage to the appearance or physical integrity of the trees, these regulations being based on the asset value of the ensemble;
- That these compensation rules should comprise a planting element and a contribution to an ad-hoc fund;
- Finally, that the conservation should be delivered by a collective organisation bringing together owners and managers, the authority responsible for upholding the protection regulations and other environmental groups.

It is a matter of urgency that state governments and public authorities should:

- engage in policies of communication, consciousness-raising and education for the public and for all professionals involved, in order to re-establish a genuine culture of tree-lined roads and a widespread dissemination of the necessary expertise;
- discontinue all practices stigmatising roadside trees, particularly relating to road safety, instead undertaking measures to encourage responsible behaviour on the part of all road users;
- commit to presenting a positive image of tree-lined roads commensurate with their acknowledged value;
- set up appropriate management systems (inventories, follow-up, etc.);
- explore the possibilities for private and corporate financing;
- stop all tree felling until these recommendations are implemented.

8.5. Conclusions of the report prepared and presented by Mrs Marina KULESHOVA and Mrs Tamara SEMENOVA, experts of the Council of Europe, on "Landscape and Ethics" [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 16]

Conclusions / Abstract

Nowadays major transformations of the landscape are human induced. Consequently, any environmental or rapid social and cultural changes are interconnected with the moral aspects of landscape management. By applying the ethics concept certain ethical principles and their application to practical behaviour are examined. The fundamental ethical provisions in any society are fixed in the legislation, tradition and religion. In practice, legislation does not regulate either the existing or emerging diversity of all civic rights in relation to the landscape use and development: first, it is a rather rigid instrument derived from formal logics; second, it usually serves individual or corporate interests rather than communal or social requirements; and finally, the generalised conceptual structure of the law is not flexible enough. Ethics is a much finer instrument for regulation of social relations. Operational use of this resource along with legal capacity building is an important means for the protection of individual and collective rights in landscape preservation and management.

Customary law based on traditions is enforced and accepted as formal legislation in traditional societies. During the modernisation period, the group using landscape for its subsistence usually suffers first and either lacks access to land or is deprived of its resources. All indigenous peoples and their communities are included in this group as their ethnic identity is rooted in landscape conditions. All urban and rural dwellers, when they express a wish to continue their traditional lifestyle and resist the principal modernisation of their conservative environment, experience a real shock when construction development or land privatisation processes intrude and destroy their habitual landscapes. This major conflict is not resolved because the economy as a sphere of human activity dominates in the decision-making and political processes. Acceptance of the ethical norms of customary law being on a par with governmental legal acts is a key element in the progress of human society towards harmonised spatial development and recognition of landscape values in the globalisation process.

Preservation of landscape values for present or future generations is viewed as one of the most important ethical norms. If the national system of heritage sites includes proper representation of landscape phenomena this is clear evidence of the respect and ethically developed understanding of landscape values in national governance.

Landscape values are revealed and appreciated through studies of the local community history, resulting also in the comprehensive ethical policy for future landscape management. Public polls and inquiries on landscape development perspectives and desired lifestyle and environment are important tools for the adoption of ethically and socially accepted decisions.

Through them ethics becomes an extra-legal and non-political instrument for landscape preservation. Partnership of the civil society and authorities in the elaboration and implementation of landscape policy is evidence of the proper consideration and high respect of different social interests and public views, and reflection of the maturity of democratic and ethical procedures in state and public interrelations. However, there exists a conflict between the perceptions of values and utility, reflecting contradictions in human development, when one part of the society offers an intellectual assessment and endorsement of the historical qualities, in opposition to the landscape transformation, while the other part seeks new development models based on space and resource use, supporting in this way total landscape conversion. An important ethical dilemma lies in the basis of this conflict: who has the right to the landscape (or environment in the wider sense) future – the capital owners, who are able 'to buy' the landscape elements or fragments as a property, the elites, who have the political and legal powers obtained through economic support, or the historical heirs dwelling in the landscape and protecting its values by established ethical norms? Economic considerations and needs are to be continuously ethically tested and assessed: taking into account social and ecological imperatives is a

primary objective. Ethics is a safeguard against conflict in the adoption of landscape development models, so ethical and environmental constraints shall be recognised as an inalienable part of the landscape development process.

New stereotypes of living and technological innovations, emerging in post-modern civilisation, may lead to the considerable enhancement of the landscape values. Creative environment, nature as a source of technological progress, everything that is connected to human involvement and existence in the landscape makes it more treasured and, therefore, ethical assessments are more in demand.

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