

Dear colleagues,

First of all let me thank all the participants for their highly valuable professional contribution.

I am sure that this conference will be another important step towards practical implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The Convention defines 'Landscape' as an interconnected natural cultural and urban environment without separating the territory into components. This is why the Convention is considered as an innovative and valuable 'new concept'.

The practical implementation of the Convention implies actions grounded on balanced and sustainable interaction between the needs of society, economic activity and environmental development and hence it can be considered as an effective tool for achieving sustainable development goals.

Taking into account the explosive growth of urban population all over the world, as well as the fact that human economic activities and resulting negative anthropological impacts are mainly concentrated in urban areas the issue of urbanisation can be deemed as one of the important contemporary global challenges.

For this reason the social, cultural and economic prospective development of countries is conditioned on significant elevation of the role of city systems- greatly urbanising the possible solutions of arising problems.

As an evidence of these developments UN summit has adopted the New Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 global goals (11-th global goal particularly addresses the mentioned issue) as well as the UN -Habitat has adopted the New Urban Agenda.

In essence the landmarks stipulated in these documents are closely interrelated with issues of the sustainable development of urbanized landscapes.

I think that the functions of landscape policy implementation should be closely interconnected with approaches and recommendations provided in Global Agendas.

Based on above mentioned ideas, let me once again underline the importance of landscape policy implementation in urbanized areas and propose to direct upcoming actions within EU Landscape Convention implementation towards the issues of urbanized landscapes development.

Thank you for your attention.