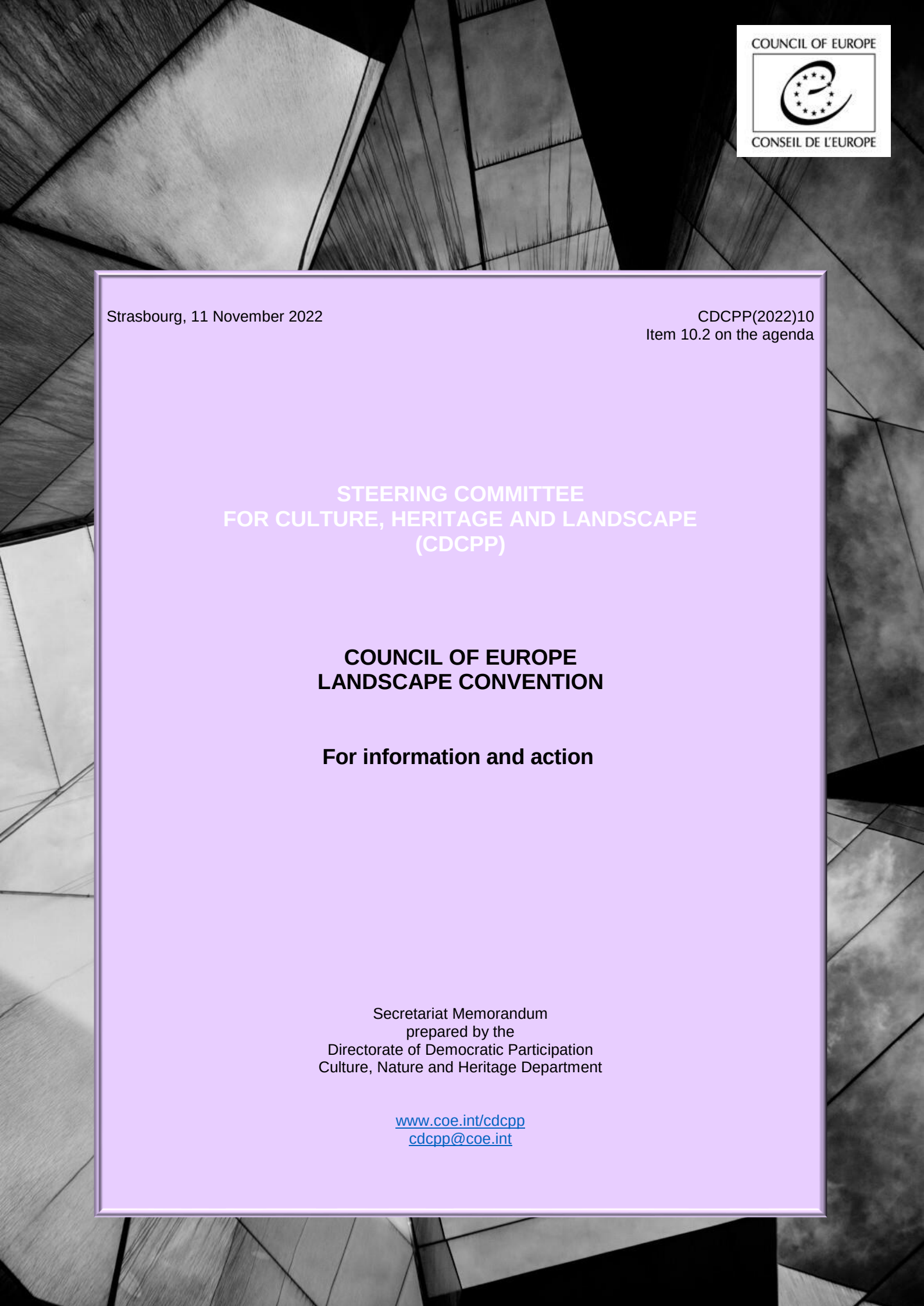


Strasbourg, 11 November 2022

CDCPP(2022)10
Item 10.2 on the agenda

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

For information and action

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

www.coe.int/cdcpp
cdcpp@coe.int

Background

Adopted in Strasbourg by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000, the European Landscape Convention was opened for signature by the Organisation's member States in Florence on 20 October of that year. A Protocol amending the Convention (CETS No.219) came into force on 1st July 2021. The aim of the Protocol is to promote European co-operation with non-European States who wish to implement the provisions of the Convention by opening the Convention to their accession.

As the first international treaty devoted exclusively to all aspects of landscape, the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) addresses the Organisation's key challenges in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The member States of the Organisation signatories to the Convention have declared themselves "concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment", including the cultural dimension. Although each citizen must, of course, contribute to preserving the quality of the landscape, it is the public authorities that are responsible for establishing the general framework that enables that quality to be ensured. The Convention accordingly lays down the general legal principles that must guide the adoption of national landscape policies and the establishment of international co-operation in this area.

The Convention provides that existing competent Committees of Experts of the Council of Europe, set up under its Statute, are designated by the Committee of Ministers to monitor its implementation. Its Article 10 "Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention" states:

"1. Existing competent Committees of Experts set up under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe shall be designated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.
2. Following each meeting of the Committees of Experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers. …".

The Work Programme of the Convention adopted by the Council of Europe conferences on the European Landscape Convention and the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) is implemented by the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe who transmits a report on the work carried out, and on the operation of the Convention, to the Committee of Ministers.

Reference texts for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.

The reference texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for its implementation contribute to promoting: the definition and legal recognition of the landscape; ensuring that the landscape dimension is taken into account in national and international policies; international co-operation.

State of signatures and ratifications of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.

To date, 40 States have ratified the Council of Europe Landscape Convention.

Progress

1. Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the Convention

- ✓ 26th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections - 7th Session 2020-2021", (Bergamo, Italy, 28-29 April 2022). *European spatial planning and landscape Series,* No 124

The European Landscape Convention provides for a Council of Europe Landscape Award. The Award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development, it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions.

On 23 November 2021, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in accordance with the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers CM/Res(2008)3 and on the proposals of the Jury and of the Steering Committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award (2020-2021), to the following achievement: Biodiversity in the city: Bergamo and the Astino Valley, Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo, Italy.

It conferred identical Special Mentions of the Landscape Award to the 11 achievements presented also during the 7th Session of the Forum.

2. National Symposiums on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

- ✓ National Symposium on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention in Greece and Forum of the National Selections of the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe: "The landscape as a reflection and project of civilisation" (Kastraki Kalampaka, Trikala, Greece, 6-8 April 2022).
  European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series, 2022, No 125.

The presentations made at the Symposium and the Forum showed a real know-how to protect, manage and develop parts of the territory. Special focus was given to the landscape dimension in Greek public policies and synergies developed between ministries.

The achievements presented in the framework of the Landscape Award reflect a common language expressing a will to preserve, reveal or recreate quality spaces with the involvement of the population. This culture of places – whether they are natural or anthropised, exceptional or more common, preserved or degraded – shows that it is necessary to pay attention to preserving the quality and diversity of living spaces, as well as the space of life.
The message of the meeting is that no part of the territory is really "ordinary". It could only be considered as such, so long as it has not been truly revealed or restored.

- ✓ National Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention in Armenia: Landscape education activities for primary schools –Pedagogical booklet (Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, 8-10 June 2022). *European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series*, 2022, No 126.

The Conference was organised on the occasion of the publication of the Armenian version of the Landscape education activities for primary schools – Pedagogical booklet. Intended for primary school teachers, the booklet was presented at the meeting. It aims to stir curiosity and interest among pupils in landscape by inviting them to think about what they view as "landscape" and to consider it with its environmental, social, cultural and economic dimensions, both in space and time. This publication was promoted during the meeting, and is now available in twenty-two other languages, and freely accessible on the website of the Convention.

In addition to Armenia, four experts presented the Landscape education experiences of their countries: Portugal, Romania, Croatia and Finland.

This work will certainly contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015; Sustainable Development Goal 4 "Quality Education".

3. International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe

- ✓ Sixth International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe, 20 October 2022

> The "Message from Strasbourg": Landscape and health, invites the competent public authorities and territorial actors to consider:
> the importance of the landscape at global level as an essential component of human being's surroundings.
> Preamble of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176).
>
> It intends to respond to the challenges of the international meeting of the United Nations "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity", 2-3 June 2022.

Next steps

1. Council of Europe Conferences on the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

- ➢ 12th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 25-26 May 2023).

2. Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the Convention

- ➢ 27th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (12-13 October 2023).

3. Working Groups, supported by expertise, in order to prepare a draft recommendation for the attention of the Committee and the Committee of Ministers

- Working Group to elaborate the elements for a draft Recommendation on Landscape and Health (beginning 2023).

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- Nominate a representative to the International Jury panel of the Award in 2023.
- Take note of the preparation of a draft recommendation for the attention of the CDCPP and the Committee of Ministers on "Landscape and Health".
- Thank the Hellenic authorities for their hospitality in holding the National Forum and the 6th Session of the Landscape Award, and take note of the proceedings No 125.
- Thank the Italian authorities and the Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore for their hospitality in holding the 26th Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the Landscape Convention, and take note of the proceedings No 124.
- Take note of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe for the 7th Session of the Landscape Award (2020-2021) conferred to the "Biodiversity in the city: Bergamo and the Astino Valley, Foundation della Misericordia Maggiore of Bergamo, Italy".
- Thank the Armenian authorities for having organised the National Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention and take note of the proceedings No 126.
- Take note of the Landscape education activities for primary schools and distribute the Pedagogical booklet available in twenty-two languages.
- Take note of the "Message from Strasbourg" on the occasion of the Sixth International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe, 20 October 2022.
- Take note of the holding of the 12th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in the Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg on 25-26 May 2023.
- Take note of the holding of the 27th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (12-13 October 2023).