

**CDCPP THEMATIC SESSION, 23 November 2022  
Contribution from GREECE**

**A decade of recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers in the field of  
culture, heritage and landscape – legacy and prospects**

**1. How do your national authorities / does your organisation use and apply Council of Europe recommendations in their policy-making / in its activities? Can you mention an example, perhaps of a specific recommendation?**

**Ministry of Culture and Sports**

The General Directorate for the Restoration, Museums and Technical Works of the Ministry of Culture, through the Directorates attached to it, uses and applies Council of Europe recommendations in its policy-making and its activities in the following ways:

- a) by ensuring that the protection, preservation, restoration, enhancement and reuse of ancient, byzantine/post-byzantine and ottoman monuments as well as of the modern and contemporary buildings is in full compliance with international principles, charters and guidelines,
- b) by seeking to integrate built cultural heritage into the tissue of modern towns, cities and human settlements,
- c) by taking all available measures, following international principles and guidelines, in order to monitor, document, assess, reduce and avoid the dangerous impact of climate change and related natural disasters that threaten monuments of all periods,
- d) by encouraging cooperation and exchange of know-how and best practices concerning methods, materials and techniques for the protection and restoration of built cultural heritage,
- e) by acting as National Contact Point for the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative in Greece. The General Directorate works towards the identification, dissemination and implementation of NEB's main objectives, which aim to create beautiful, sustainable and inclusive towns, cities and human settlements, taking into consideration the importance of culture, high-quality architecture and built environment.

The main activities of the General Directorate for the Restoration, Museums and Technical Works as well as its active participation in the NEB initiative fully comply with most of the requirements of the 2022 Recommendation, as also evidenced by our response to the next question in this questionnaire.

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**Ministry of Environment and Energy**

Greece ratified the «European Landscape Convention» by Law 3827 (A30/25.2.2010). On the occasion of the approval of specifications for the last revision of the Regional Spatial Planning Frameworks (RSPFs) in 2011, a preparation was included of a Special Landscape Study for each of the 12 Regions of Greece except Attica.

- a. Through these Special Landscape Studies and their establishment, Greece completed the integration of the Landscape dimension in Regional Spatial Planning.

- b. Nowadays on the occasion of the preparation process of Maritime Spatial Planning (regional level spatial planning), the Ministry of Environment and Energy also aims to include both cultural heritage monuments and landscape protection criteria in the Maritime Spatial Planning to determine the zoning of some uses which are expected to have serious effects on certain landscapes of special value.
- c. In addition, we should refer to the Special Spatial Planning Frameworks, and in particular those for Tourism and Renewable Sources Energy, which constitute Sectoral planning tools at national level and are currently in the process of revision, which also include criteria for the Landscape protection, highlighting the importance of Recommendation **CM/Rec(2021)12** of the Committee of Ministers to member States for the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention – *Integration of the landscape dimension into sectoral policies*.
- d. By Ministerial Decision 72343/1885 (National Gazette B/3545) regarding the Technical Specifications for the preparation of Local Urban Plans, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy has also included the integration of the landscape dimension into local urban planning documents of small towns, villages and their surroundings, highlighting the importance of Recommendation **CM/Rec(2019)7** of the Committee of Ministers to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – *Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition*.

**2. The 2022 Recommendation on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address global challenges is the latest adopted recommendation. Do your national authorities / does your organisation have any plans on how to use and apply it in their policy making / in its activities?**

**Ministry of Culture and Sports**

Concerning the 2022 Recommendation on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape and with a view to addressing global challenges in the context of sustainable development, the General Directorate for the Restoration, Museums and Technical Works of the Ministry of Culture is taking the following steps:

**a)** The key Implementing Actions taken by the General Directorate through its competent Directorates are summarised as follows:

1. Implementation of restoration projects regarding monuments of all periods
2. Restoration Studies' Approval
3. Approval of Implementing Entities for proposed restoration projects under co-financed programmes or the Public Investment Programme
4. Programme Agreements for Cultural Development
5. The listing process of modern monuments and of historical sites
6. Cooperation with other public bodies for protection of monuments.

Conduct studies in collaboration with Academic Institutions concerning the restoration of monuments of all periods as well as the regeneration and integration of run-down urban spaces of particular historical or architectural interest, taking into account their history, culture and shared values.

7. Development of and participation in training programmes

8. Organisation or participation in Scientific Workshops

**b)** The active participation of the General Directorate in the New European Bauhaus initiative is important, as it acts as a National Contact Point and contributes decisively to the strengthening of partnerships aiming at the improvement of aesthetics, sustainability and inclusiveness, also considering the requirements of sustainable development and the policies for the implementation of its key objectives. In particular, it helps to encourage local communities to participate in cooperative actions to protect their cultural heritage and landscape resources, using European funds and addressing public and/or private bodies.

**c)** The Ministry of Culture, through its General Directorate for the Restoration, Museums and Technical Works, participates in joint working groups with the Ministry of Environment and Energy for the promotion of the national GReco initiative, which aims to transform the Greek islands into models of green economy, energy autonomy, digital innovation and ecological mobility. This is an action under the European Commission's initiative "Clean energy for EU islands" that aims at sustainability and promotes green transition.

The Green Energy law passed in the Greek parliament also supports the Greek islands' transition to clean energy (GReco). The effort towards transition to green energy is helping societies and communities to be self-sustained, attracts people to stay on islands and prevents shrinking population, promotes local crafts (e.g. ship building) and local agriculture and tackles infrastructure problems due to summer (over)tourism.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports has stressed that more emphasis should be given on culture being the fourth pillar of sustainable development. Moreover, we have stressed the importance of complying with the restrictions for the protection of monuments, historical sites and settlements as defined by the legislation in force.

**d)** After the end of hostilities in Ukraine, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, through the competent General Directorates, and in cooperation with Universities and Research Centres, could contribute to the restoration studies of monuments of all periods with the participation of experts in specially formed task forces.

**3. What difficulties, if any, have your authorities / has your organisation encountered in applying Council of Europe recommendations?**

**Ministry of Environment and Energy**

The Ministry of Environment and Energy is the competent authority for the implementation of the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention and at the same time the competent authority for Energy. Some difficulties in the implementation of the Convention develop as a constant endogenous pursuit of balance.