

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE**

***NATIONAL DAYS ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION IN FRANCE***

***JOURNEES NATIONALES SUR
LA MISE EN OEUVRE DE LA CONVENTION EUROPEENNE SUR LE PAYSAGE EN
FRANCE***

*Landscapes from here and elsewhere:
diverse perspectives on some landscape approaches
at different scales, on either side of borders*

*Paysages d'ici et d'ailleurs :
regards croisés sur quelques démarches paysagères
à différentes échelles, de part et d'autre des frontières*

*Strasbourg, 26 November 2019 / Strasbourg, 26 novembre 2019
Study visit, 27 November 2019 / Visite d'étude, 27 novembre 2019*

Opening speech

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES

President of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, National Representative of the European Landscape Convention, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the participants of the National Days on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in France: "*Landscapes from here and elsewhere: cross-views on some landscape approaches at different scales, on both sides of the border*".

I would also like to welcome all those who celebrate together with us a day dedicated to the landscape in France.

I must express a very warm thanks to the organisers of this conference. The National Days are organised by the Council of Europe - Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention, Directorate of Democratic Participation, the Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition, the Post-Oil Landscapes Collective and the Northern Vosges Regional Nature Park, as part of the European Landscape Convention Work Programme.

Today we celebrate the landscape.

'Landscape' means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of action and interaction.

Allow me to cite *Count Pál Teleki*, not as a politician, but as a geographer who introduced the significance of the landscape in an easy-to-understand way, leaving us the opportunity to make our own interpretation.

"The landscape is not simply a picture as a visual appearance. The landscape typifies life, forming mountains, vegetation, man, body, soul, thought, feeling, work. – It creates new things, enriches the world, making our lives individual." (Count Pál Teleki, 1937)¹

According to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe, landscapes are of value to us in various ways. They are worth cherishing locally. They are worth esteeming regionally and nationally. They are worth special care beyond national borders. We have to preserve the special characteristics on both sides of borders and therefore transborder measures need to be managed from both sides. Such transborder implications and impacts effectively require that landscape also needs to be considered at an international level.

The tasks related to landscapes require a cross-sectoral approach and intervention. From the perspective of sustainability, these tasks relate to each other and we must therefore find cross-sectoral solutions at a systemic-level.

Failing to address these tasks in a holistic way is not only inefficient but potentially counter-productive.

Alongside global changes, changes in landscapes have also accelerated. Thus, the quality of our important European landscapes is at stake as well as our quality of life.

I believe that it is crucial to aim to integrate the protection, management and planning of the landscape in specific comprehensive strategic documents, in which the condition of the landscape and the triggering effects for change must be handled together. It is necessary to explore and understand causal effects and consequences and to determine responsibility.

I am convinced that this will be an extremely useful and productive event. I wish you every success for the future of the important work.

¹ „A táj nemcsak kép, a képnek értelmében megjelenési forma. A táj típusos teremtő élet is, amely hegyet, növényzetet, embert, testet, lelket, gondolatot, érzést, munkát formál, – újat teremt, világot gazdagít, életet egyéni vonalban visz tovább.” (Teleki Pál gróf, 1937)