

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION /  
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE**

**22<sup>e</sup> REUNION DES ATELIERS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE POUR LA MISE EN  
ŒUVRE DE LA CONVENTION SUR LE PAYSAGE**

**22nd MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**“Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”  
« Eau, paysage et citoyenneté face aux changements mondiaux »**

**Seville, Spain / Séville, Espagne, 14-15 March / mars 2019**  
*Study visit./ Visite d'études, 16 March / mars 2019*

---

**WORKSHOP 3: Forum of experiences – Coastal and marine landscapes**

**Russian Federation: Water, landscape and spatial planning**

**Mr Konstantin ANANITCHEV**

*Expert in Spatial Planning, Moscow Oblast, Russian Federation*

The issue of relations between water and landscape cannot be described in a brief introduction. Thus, only a few remarks are possible:

Water, its presence or absence, abundance or deficit, even or uneven distribution determine the type of any natural landscape. If water covers one hundred percent of land service we can call it a sea or an ocean. If we have no surface or ground water supply, then we see a desert. But even in deserts, we often see traces of water activity, for many centuries ago the climate and sea level were different.

When we deal with man-made landscapes, we notice that any human intervention into natural water balance affects landscape, and – vice versa – any landscape modification lays a certain impact on the quantity and quality of local waters. Many ancient cities have suffered from distortion of water balance, became depopulated and were finally abandoned.

Degradation of water resources and landscapes happened (and still happen) where people ignore their interconditionality. A classical example from school known to everyone: people cut trees near a river to increase arable land or pasture – the river goes dry – agricultural yields drops rapidly.

What about urban landscapes? Using this opportunity, I would like to say a word about the issue I am currently studying. A comfortable modern city – as we understand the term ‘comfort’ – must provide for proper architecture, infrastructure etc. and comfortable topography, with minimised number and amplitude of steep hills and gullies. For centuries my city was trying to smooth topography and to hide numerous minor rivers and streams within Moscow, in order to developed a better infrastructure and obtain new sites in areas already built up.

The efforts resulted in a completely ‘independent’ system of rain sewage oriented on the needs of building and roads. Over 90 percent of former rivers exist as underground piped flows and receive water from rains and snow melting only through collecting holes on streets and squares. In many cases, the distances are large and collecting capacities are insufficient. Every spring and every heavy summer, rain-flooded streets and yards show us the historical hydrography of the city – the network of rivers and streams.

That does not mean the situation is critical. Human casualties and material losses are much smaller than those from fires or traffic incidents. Nevertheless, floods do not help sustainable city development.

I am glad to see new construction planned with a new respect for natural topography, surface and underground water streams, and vegetation. But what about the old built up city districts? Is it possible to make them more hydrologically friendly. I hope it is.

Now I give the floor to my colleagues.