

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

***22^e 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***

OPENING SESSION – Welcome speeches

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Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, National Representative of the Convention for the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

The topic of the 22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention is “Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”.

For me, a landscape architect by education, this is an important topic. My graduation thesis was on the topic: Water - the Soul of the Landscape. Later, during the professional work I was also faced with the other aspect of using water - water as a development resource. It is always a professional challenge to compromise these two concepts: protection and development.

Landscape is more than just scenery: it is the interaction between people and place; the bedrock upon which our society is built. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.’

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and opened for signature of the Member States of the Organization with the aiming to promote European landscape protection, management and planning and to organize

international co-operation. It is the first document to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of the landscape. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes.

The Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. By taking into account natural and cultural values, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and individual and social well-being.

Our landscapes are important to us for many reasons. They are a shared resource for everyone, irrespective of ownership, ability or background. They provide a living history of our past, and an inspiration for our culture. They provide a wide range of social and health benefits and underpin economy.

Whether rural or urban, coastal or inland, degraded or well-preserved, our surroundings reflect our quality of life. It is not only areas of outstanding beauty which require our attention, but the rich variety of settings in which we live – many of which have been undergoing rapid change.

Organised by the Council of Europe on a regular basis since 2002, the Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention aim to present new concepts and achievements in favour of the implementation of the Convention. They represent a genuine forum for sharing practices and ideas.

Implementation of the Convention in national policies is always a challenge for people who are creating landscape policies both at state and local level. Landscape doesn't have borders and we need to co-operate and to exchange the knowledge, experience and different approaches.

It is a pleasure to bring together achievements in these two days of presentations.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain, Region of Andalusia and the Municipality of Seville, for their hospitality and cooperation. Also thanked for their collaboration: the University of Seville and the Centre for Landscape and Territorial Studies.

I wish you every success.