



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***TWENTIETH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING
OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

***Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum
of National Selections
5th Session 2016-2017***

**Daugavpils, Latvia
20-21 June 2018
*Study visit, 19 June 2018***

WELCOME SPEECH

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Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

First, I want to thank the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Republic of Latvia and Daugavpils City Council for organising this workshop.

Thank you, the hosting country, for your contribution to the implementation of the Convention by organising of this 20th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum of National Selections - 5th Session 2016-2017” and the study visit, creating the extremely important opportunity for mutual assistance, in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention. It is a pleasure to exchange information on the achievement of the Parties in promotion of the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by improving the landscape features of people’s surroundings.

The Workshop aims to recognise policies or measures which local or regional authorities or non-governmental organisations have adopted to protect, manage and plan their landscapes, and which have proven to be lastingly effective and which can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities.

In these two days of presentations, we will bring together the Latvian Landscape Policy and the projects of high value achieved in the Member States:

- Landscapes planned – Strong forward-looking actions, to enhance, restore or create landscapes;
- Landscapes managed – Actions, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, in order to guide and harmonise changes;
- Landscapes protected – Actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape.

We will draw from our common knowledge, acknowledging the best practices of Andorra, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Spain.

The ceremony of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe: the 5th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe will raise the light on both the event and the noble effort of the applicants.

Congratulations to you all and I wish you every success for the continuation of the work you have begun.