



Strasbourg, 1st February 2009

CEP-CDPATEP (2009) 5E

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDPATEP

5th CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
30-31 March 2009

GENERAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2007-2009 AND STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*Document of the Secretariat General
Cultural heritage, landscape and spatial planning Division
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The Conference is invited to take note of the General Report of activities 2007-2009.

The European Landscape Convention was adopted in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000 and came into force on 1 March 2004, with the aim of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning, and encouraging European co-operation in this area. The Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of European landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

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

As of 1st February 2009, 30 States had ratified the Convention: Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom. Six States had signed but not ratified it: Azerbaijan, Greece, Malta, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland (see Appendix to this document).

The Action Plan adopted by Council of Europe Heads of State and Government at their Third Summit in Warsaw on 17 May 2005 includes a section on "Promoting sustainable development" which provides that: "We are committed to improving the quality of life for citizens. The Council of Europe shall therefore, on the basis of the existing instruments, further develop and support integrated policies in the fields of environment, landscape, spatial planning and prevention and management of natural disasters, in a sustainable development perspective". The work done by the Council of Europe seeks to promote a comprehensive and coherent vision of the "common heritage" concept, by presenting the cultural and natural heritage as a means of fostering spatial planning, strengthening social ties and improving the environment people live in.

On 30 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers adopted the terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), which is now responsible for dealing with natural and cultural heritage issues. It has the task of monitoring the Conventions on the cultural heritage and landscape:

The work done over the period from 2007 to 2009 to implement the European Landscape Convention is aimed at:

- monitoring implementation of the Convention;
- fostering European co-operation;
- collecting examples of good practice;
- fostering knowledge and research;
- raising awareness;
- fostering access to information.

I. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

1. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 February 2008 at the 1017th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. The recommendation, which contains a series of theoretical, methodological and practical guidelines, is intended for parties to the Convention which wish to draw up and implement a national landscape policy based on the Convention. It also includes two appendices entitled:

- Examples of instruments used to implement the European Landscape Convention;
- Suggested text for the practical implementation of the European Landscape Convention at national level.

Appendix 1 to the recommendation may be supplemented by the experiences of parties to the Convention on their own territories, which will provide practical and methodological lessons. It is proposed that each party contribute to the setting up of a database to appear on the website of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, which would be a "toolbox" to help provide mutual technical and scientific assistance, as provided for in Article 8 of the Convention.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (*Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 6 February 2008 at the 1017th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*)

 Link to the document:

[http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec\(2008\)3&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75](http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Rec(2008)3&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75)

2. Summary descriptive notes on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states / Council of Europe database on the European Landscape Convention

A document on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states, giving the key facts concerning the landscape of the various Council of Europe member states, is regularly updated.

The data gathered are gradually being incorporated in a Council of Europe database on the European Landscape Convention.

3. National seminars on the European Landscape Convention

Intended for states which have or have not yet ratified the Convention, the national seminars on the European Landscape Convention help generate debate on the subject of landscape.

Various national seminars on the European Landscape Convention have been held, with declarations or conclusions adopted at the end of each one:

Previous seminars:

- Seminar on “Spatial planning and landscape”, Yerevan, Armenia, 23-24 October 2003;
- Seminar on “Spatial planning and landscape”, Moscow, Russian Federation, 26-27 April 2004;
- Seminar on “Sustainable spatial development and the European Landscape Convention”, Tulcea, Romania, 6-7 May 2004;
- Seminar on “The contribution of Albania to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, Tirana, Albania, 15-16 December 2005

Seminars in 2007-2009:

- Seminar on landscape, Andorra la Vella, Principality of Andorra, 4-5 June 2007

II. FOSTERING EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION

The European Landscape Convention provides that the contracting parties undertake to co-operate internationally at European level in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes. The Council of Europe organises this co-operation through the Conferences on the European Landscape Convention and the meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

1. The Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention

Several Conferences on the European Landscape Convention have already been held. They are attended by representatives of the parties and signatories and representatives of the three Council of Europe bodies – the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. Representatives of Council of Europe member states which are not yet parties or signatories and various international governmental and non-governmental organisations also attend as observers.

With regard to following up the European Landscape Convention, the terms of reference of the CDPATEP as adopted on 30 January 2008 provide that the CDPATEP shall also take into account the work of the periodic Council of Europe conferences on the European Landscape Convention and other work by appropriate experts. The 5th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 30-31 March 2009) is part of that process.

Conferences held to date:

- 22-23 November 2001, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- 28-29 November 2002, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- 17-18 June 2004, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- 22-23 March 2007, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- 30-31 March 2009, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

2. Meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

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 take a detailed

look at the implementation of the Convention. Special emphasis is given to the experiences of the state hosting the meeting. A genuine forum for sharing practice and ideas, the meetings are also an opportunity to present new concepts and achievements in connection with the Convention. The proceedings of the workshops are regularly published in the Council of Europe's Spatial Planning and Landscape series.

The following meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention have been held so far.

Previous themes:

- 23-24 May 2002, Strasbourg: *“Landscape policies: contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches); Landscape identification, evaluation and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources; Awareness-raising, training and education; Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape”*;
- 27-28 November 2003, Strasbourg: *“Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes; Landscapes and individual and social well-being; Spatial planning and landscape”*;
- 16-17 June 2005, Cork (Ireland): *“Landscapes for urban, suburban and peri-urban areas”*;
- 11-12 May 2006, Ljubljana (Slovenia): *“Landscape and society”*;
- 28-29 September 2006, Girona (Spain): *“Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practice”*;

Workshops in 2007-2009:

- 20-21 September 2007, Sibiu (Romania): *“Landscape and rural heritage”*, in the context of the Year “Sibiu, European Capital of Culture”;
- 24-25 April 2008, Piestany (Slovakia) *“Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management”*;
- 8-9 October 2009, Malmö (Sweden), *“Landscape and driving forces”*

III. COLLECTING EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Convention (Article 11) provides for a Council of Europe Landscape Award. In particular, it states that, on proposals from the committees of experts supervising the implementation of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape Award, adopt the relevant rules and confer the award. The Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe on 20 February 2008. The award was launched in 2008 and will be conferred for the first time in 2009.

The criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are as follows:

- *Sustainable territorial development:* The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public for at least three years when the candidatures were submitted. They must also be part of a sustainable development policy and be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned; demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability; counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures; help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

- *Exemplary value:* The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.
- *Public participation:* The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives. The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways: through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example); through procedures for public participation and involvement in landscape policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities.
- *Awareness-raising:* Article 6.A of the Convention provides that “each Party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them”. Action along these lines taken as part of the completed project concerned will be assessed.

Resolution on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)

Link to the document:

[http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Res\(2008\)3&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75](http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM/Res(2008)3&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75)

IV. FOSTERING KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Exploratory reports on issues related to the European Landscape Convention are drawn up by Council of Europe experts and submitted to the relevant committees of experts. To date, reports have been produced on the following subjects:

Themes of previous reports:

- Landscape policies: contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural and ecological approaches)
- Landscape identification, evaluation and quality objectives, using cultural and natural resources
- Awareness-raising, training and education
- Innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape
- Landscape, towns and suburban and peri-urban areas
- Landscape and transport infrastructures: roads

Reports in 2007-2009:

- Selected EU funding opportunities to support the implementation of the European Landscape Convention
- European Local Landscape Circle Studies
- Landscape and education
- Road infrastructures: tree avenues in the landscape
- Landscape and ethics

V. AWARENESS RAISING

Several information documents and four issues of the Council of Europe's *Naturoipa* magazine have been devoted to landscape and the European Landscape Convention. The magazine has been renamed *Futuropa*, for a new vision of landscape and territory so as to highlight the cross-sectoral nature of the themes more clearly.

Previous themes:

- “Landscapes: the setting for our future lives”, *Naturoipa*, No 86, 1998
- “The European Landscape Convention”, *Naturoipa*, No 98, 2002
- “Landscape through literature”, *Naturoipa/Culturoipa*, No 103, 2005

Themes in 2007-2009 :

- “Vernacular rural housing: heritage in the landscape”, *Futuropa*: for a new vision of landscape and territory, No 1, 2008
- “Landscape and transfrontier co-operation”, *Futuropa*: for a new vision of landscape and territory, No 2 (under preparation)

Website of *Naturoipa* / *Futuropa*: www.coe.int/naturoipa/futuropa

VI. FOSTERING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Convention website should include the following:

- Presentation of the European Landscape Convention;
- State of signatures and ratifications of the European Landscape Convention;
- Implementation of the European Landscape Convention (before and since its entry into force);
- Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- National Seminars on the European Landscape Convention;
- Reference texts on landscape;
- National policies;
- Network of partners of the European Landscape Convention;
- Landscape calendar;
- Publications;
- Contacts

European Landscape Convention website: www.coe.int/EuropeanlandscapeConvention

The site will also offer access to the Database provided for in Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

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APPENDIX

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION AT 1st FEBRUARY 2009

European Landscape Convention

CETS No.: 176

Treaty open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe and for accession by the European Community and the European non-member States

Opening for signature

Place: Florence

Date : 20/10/2000

Entry into force

Conditions: 10 Ratifications.

Date : 1/3/2004

Status as of: 1/2/2009

Member States of the Council of Europe

States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
Albania										
Andorra										
Armenia	14/5/2003	23/3/2004	1/7/2004							
Austria										
Azerbaijan	22/10/2003									
Belgium	20/10/2000	28/10/2004	1/2/2005							
Bosnia and Herzegovina										
Bulgaria	20/10/2000	24/11/2004	1/3/2005							
Croatia	20/10/2000	15/1/2003	1/3/2004							
Cyprus	21/11/2001	21/6/2006	1/10/2006							
Czech Republic	28/11/2002	3/6/2004	1/10/2004							
Denmark	20/10/2000	20/3/2003	1/3/2004					X		
Estonia										
Finland	20/10/2000	16/12/2005	1/4/2006							
France	20/10/2000	17/3/2006	1/7/2006							
Georgia										
Germany										
Greece	13/12/2000									
Hungary	28/9/2005	26/10/2007	1/2/2008							
Iceland										
Ireland	22/3/2002	22/3/2002	1/3/2004							
Italy	20/10/2000	4/5/2006	1/9/2006							
Latvia	29/11/2006	5/6/2007	1/10/2007							
Liechtenstein										
Lithuania	20/10/2000	13/11/2002	1/3/2004							
Luxembourg	20/10/2000	20/9/2006	1/1/2007							
Malta	20/10/2000									
Moldova	20/10/2000	14/3/2002	1/3/2004							
Monaco										
Montenegro	8/12/2008	22/1/2009	1/5/2009							
Netherlands	27/7/2005	27/7/2005	1/11/2005					X		
Norway	20/10/2000	23/10/2001	1/3/2004							
Poland	21/12/2001	27/9/2004	1/1/2005							

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Portugal	20/10/2000	29/3/2005	1/7/2005							
Romania	20/10/2000	7/11/2002	1/3/2004							
Russia										
San Marino	20/10/2000	26/11/2003	1/3/2004							
Serbia	21/9/2007									
Slovakia	30/5/2005	9/8/2005	1/12/2005							
Slovenia	7/3/2001	25/9/2003	1/3/2004							
Spain	20/10/2000	26/11/2007	1/3/2008							
Sweden	22/2/2001									
Switzerland	20/10/2000									
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	15/1/2003	18/11/2003	1/3/2004							
Turkey	20/10/2000	13/10/2003	1/3/2004							
Ukraine	17/6/2004	10/3/2006	1/7/2006							
United Kingdom	21/2/2006	21/11/2006	1/3/2007					X		

Non-member States of the Council of Europe

States	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force	Notes	R.	D.	A.	T.	C.	O.
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Total number of signatures not followed by ratifications:	6
Total number of ratifications/accessions:	30

Notes: a: Accession - s: Signature without reservation as to ratification - su: Succession - r: Signature "ad referendum".
R.: Reservations - D.: Declarations - A.: Authorities - T.: Territorial Application - C.: Communication - O.: Objection.

Source : Treaty Office on <http://conventions.coe.int>