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Renaturation of the watercourse of the River Aire

Republic and Canton of Geneva

and the following partners:

Switzerland

Municipalities: Bernex, Confignon, Perly-Certoux and Onex;

Environmental Associations: Association for the Protection of the Aire and its tributaries (transfrontier); ProNatura Geneva; World Wide Fund for Nature-Geneva;

Association of inhabitants: "Living in Lully";

Farmers' association: AgriGenève, Union Vegetable Market of Geneva;

Office: "Superpositions" Group;

France

Federation of municipalities of Genevois: Archamps, Haute-Savoie, *in a spirit of transfrontier co-operation, in accordance with Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention*



The project consists of the morphological revitalisation of the watercourse of the Aire, which was channelled between the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, with the aim of restoring its space of freedom and wanderings to meet environmental and protection objectives against flood hazards. Since the river flows in a heavily urbanised plain, the project also had a social purpose, offering the population new places of relaxation and

walking in the direct vicinity of the city of the Geneva. Led by the service of renaturation of the rivers of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, it was implemented by the group "Superpositions", composed of engineers, biologists and landscape architects. The approach was to let the new river shape its own bed by giving free rein to the effect of erosion, while transforming the old canal into a linear park with walks and public squares. This "large landscaped garden" is greatly appreciated by the citizens.

The Committee of Ministers conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the organisers of the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

Presented by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the project constitutes a multidisciplinary and concerted intervention of high quality to reconfigure the river bed of the River Aire, and to renature the course of the river in a peri-urban and urban territorial area. While allowing for the prevention of floods and the reconstitution of ecosystems favourable to animal and plant life, this living landscape has also become a space for walks and recreation, as well as a meeting place appreciated by people.

The transnational dimension of the watercourse represents an invitation to continue transfrontier co-operation to enhance the landscape.

Recognised for its great value, and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.