



## FLORENCE CONVENTION

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

28 October 2025

Florence, Italy

*Villa Medicea "La Petraia"*

## Ministerial Conference

### CONCEPT NOTE

REF : T-FC (2025) CONF 3 E



## THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE MARKING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION



Date: 28 October 2025

Place: Villa La Petraia, Florence, Italy

Organisers: The Council of Europe and the Ministry of Culture of Italy

### Context and Objectives of the Conference

The Council of Europe Landscape Convention<sup>1</sup> was opened for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe, in Florence, Italy, on 20 October 2000. After a quarter of a century, it remains one of the most ratified Council of Europe treaties. A Protocol amending the Convention adopted in 2016 made it possible for non-Council of Europe member States and the European Union to accede to the treaty.

The Council of Europe Landscape Convention introduces an innovative concept of landscapes, rooted in human perception and applied across the entire territory of its States Parties. It recognises all landscapes - whether outstanding, everyday or degraded - as essential to quality of life and cultural heritage. The Convention's core principles of protection, management and planning are implemented through evolving policies, led by competent authorities and shaped by local communities. By promoting multi-level governance, public awareness, inclusive participation and a multi-stakeholder approach, the Convention fosters good democratic governance for sustainable landscape management. Its holistic vision integrates environmental, cultural, and socio-economic dimensions, viewing landscapes as shared heritage and as a strategic foundation for addressing environmental challenges and fostering harmonious connection between people and the environment. By emphasising the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy, the Convention furthers Council of Europe's objectives in a dynamic and forward-thinking manner<sup>2</sup>. Its contribution to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view of sustainable development has been clearly emphasised in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec \(2017\)7](#). High landscape standards and high quality of living environment for all, building on the potential of landscape are central pillar to human rights (Conference on the Landscape Convention 2007).

During the [4<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Summit](#) (Reykjavík, 16-17 May 2023), the Heads of State, through the Reykjavík Declaration, underscored the urgency of further efforts to protect the environment and address the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It also emphasised the role of the Council of Europe in landscape protection.

The aim of the Conference is to reaffirm the pivotal role of the Convention and outline its future direction in line with the [Reykjavík Declaration](#), while also serving as a means to implement the [Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment](#), adopted at the ministerial session in May 2025.

### Conference Structure

Following the opening session, the event will feature two consecutive conference sessions. During Sessions I and II, statements by Ministers shall be limited to five minutes, while other officials' contributions shall be limited to three minutes.

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<sup>1</sup> [ETS No 176](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Council of Europe Landscape Convention Contribution to human rights, democracy and sustainable development](#)

## **Session I: 25 Years of Achievements of the Florence Convention**

Ministers will engage and exchange ideas on the milestones, achievements and impact of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, both at the international and at national levels. and highlighting good practices in implementing the Convention. Key questions include:

- What have been the success factors in the development and implementation of landscape policies to promote landscape protection, management and planning?
- How is the inclusive, equal and meaningful public participation in the development and implementation of these policies been ensured?
- What steps must be taken to guarantee an intersectoral approach and to integrate landscape into other national policies?

## **Session II: Future of the Florence Convention**

Building on the conclusions of the previous session, the Ministers will explore solutions, innovative approaches and the role of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention in light of the Reykjavik Declaration. Key questions include:

- How can the Council of Europe and the Landscape Convention play a pivotal role in further advancing the sustainable protection, planning and management of landscapes?
- What innovative solutions and approaches can be explored to leverage landscapes-related policies' contribution to mitigate the negative impact of the triple planetary crisis on human rights, democracy and the rule of law?

## **Ceremony of Presentation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

The Conference will feature the presentation of the European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nature Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain) by the Committee of Ministers on 9 July 2025 at its 1534th meeting.

## **Main outcomes of the Conference**

The Conference will produce a Declaration to be adopted by the Ministers and other State representatives. This Declaration will outline a strategic vision to strengthen multilateral cooperation and promote the effective implementation of the Convention and its integration into national policies.

The Conference will emphasise how the implementation of the Landscape Convention can enhance the recognition of landscape quality as an essential resource for safeguarding human rights and addressing the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

## **Cultural events**

Prior to the Conference, **on 27 October 2025, a series of cultural events for Ministers** will showcase Florence's rich history and cultural heritage.

## **Participants**

In addition to the Ministers, the event would also be attended by state civil servants responsible for landscape management at central and decentralised levels, local and regional representatives, as well as other key stakeholders from the academic, professional and

associative fields, both nationally and internationally. Representatives of the Council Europe institutions, bodies and relevant committees will participate in the Conference.