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COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Concept Note for the 13th Conference on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Concept Note

I. Arrangements for the Conference

The 13th Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention will take place in Autumn 2026, in Strasbourg. The main event will be a one-day or one-day and half conference, with optional side events focused on topics of interest to the States Parties. These side events may offer a platform for focused exchange and cooperation, providing opportunities for in-depth discussions and networking.

II. Topic of the Conference

The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss the main developments and achievements within the Council of Europe, in the environmental field with special focus on the Landscape Convention since the adoption of the [Reykjavík Declaration](#).

The event will also reflect on the outcomes of the Informal Ministerial Conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, emphasising the fundamental role of landscapes in cultural, ecological, environmental, economic, and social fields, and highlighting key advances in legal and policy frameworks for the sustainable planning, management, and protection of landscapes across member States and beyond.

These discussions will also provide an opportunity to consider the necessary steps for implementing the commitments outlined in the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference. This includes identifying priority areas for future actions, establishing effective cooperation mechanisms, and exploring opportunities for knowledge exchanges among States Parties. They will assess the implementation of the Convention, review progress under the work programme endorsed at the 12th Conference, and set priorities for future activities.

The main agenda items may include:

- **Update on achievements in the environmental field, with a focus on the Landscape Convention within the framework of the Reykjavík Process:**
 - The adoption of the Strategy on the Environment and its Action Plan. These could be presented to the States Parties, along with the first implementation report expected at the end of 2025, with a special focus on the Landscape Convention. This could trigger discussion on the Convention's role in advancing the Strategy's effective implementation, especially objective 5 (protecting wildlife, ecosystems, habitats and landscapes) and guide future activities for the updated Action Plan.
 - The adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law and its ratification status. Recognising that environmental crimes negatively affect economies, public health, human safety, food security, livelihoods, and natural habitats - and contribute to accelerating degradation processes such as pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and habitat destruction - the connection between environmental offences and landscape protection deserves further consideration.
 - The establishment of a Steering Committee on the Environment (CDENV), depending on the decision of the Ministers' Deputies after the negotiation of the budget for the next biennium. The mandate and activities related to the Landscape Convention could be presented at the 13th Conference by the Chair (inclusion of this agenda item is

conditional upon the Committee of Ministers' decision on the establishment of CDENV by the end of 2025).

- **Update on the implementation of the activities set by the work programme for 2025-2026 at the 12th Conference:**

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2025\)1](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention – *Landscape and Health*. This could also reflect on the exchanges on the implementation of the Recommendation at the Technical Meeting of the States Parties in Florence, Italy on 27 October 2025.
- The preparation of the draft report and recommendations “*Landscape, a living environment*”.
- 8th Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award – Forum of National Selections, held in Lousã, Portugal, on 27 June 2025.
- 9th Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award (2025-2026).
- Informal Ministerial Conference marking the 25th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, as outlined above.
- Online information system of the Convention: mission and system update.

- **Work programme for 2026-2027:**

- 13th Conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention (2026)
- International Jury for the 9th Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award (2026).
- Workshop on topics to be decided at the Technical meeting in Florence on 27 October 2025 or Group of experts to prepare a new Recommendation (2026).