



FINAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE 6TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
3-4 May 2011

Adopted on 4 May 2011

The participants at the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, representatives of governments, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, held at the Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg on 3 and 4 May 2011,

Thanked warmly the representatives of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for their support for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention,

Considering the importance of the European Landscape Convention as a means of implementing the prime objectives of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and to deal with the main problems facing the society today,

Asked the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) to forward the present conclusions to the Committee of Ministers.

Considering the following items, the participants:

1. Status of the Convention

– *welcomed* the high degree of support shown by Council of Europe member States for the European Landscape Convention, which at present has been ratified by 33 States and signed by a further 6;

– *expressed* the hope that all the Council of Europe member States could sign and ratify the European Landscape Convention as soon as possible.

2. General report of activity of the European Landscape Convention

– *took note* with satisfaction of the General Report of activity of the European Landscape Convention [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 2E].

3. Implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- *noted* that the European Landscape Convention was already giving major progress in landscape policies in many Council of Europe member States at national, regional and local level [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 6E];
- *welcomed* the work carried out to promote implementation of the European Landscape Convention, and in particular the Convention website (<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>), and expressed their satisfaction at the continuation of activities, in accordance with the Work Programme [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 14E] as revised, taking account of the comments expressed at the Conference [Appendix of Document CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 18E];
- *welcomed* the support from numerous national, regional and local authorities, and from many non-governmental organisations, institutes and universities to the work for the implementation of the Convention [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 6 and 17E];
- *considered* that it was important that the Council of Europe continue holding Conferences on the European Landscape Convention every two years as a forum for dialogue and co-operation, and hoped that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe would take note of this and to make sure that the Conference be included in the mandate of the steering committees concerned;
- *underlined* the value of the work of the working group on the Information System on the European Landscape Convention and hopes that the activities continue to be developed as mentioned in the report of the last meeting the group [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) COE/ELCDatabase 10E];
- *welcomed* the translation of the European Landscape Convention, of the Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the “Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention” and of the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe on 20 February 2008 into numerous languages of the Member States of the Council of Europe;
- *invited* the Parties to the Convention to translate the texts into their national language(s) and to communicate them to the Secretariat with a view to updating those versions on to the Council of Europe European Landscape Convention website;
- *thanked* the governments, the regional and local authorities, the delegates, the observers and the experts who, thanks to their work, their participation in the meetings, their efforts and their financial or in kind contribution, have contributed to bring to life and to implement the European Landscape Convention.

4. Council of Europe Celebration on the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention on « New challenges, new opportunities » (Florence, Italy, 19-20 October 2010)

- warmly *thanked* the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy, the Tuscany Region, the Florence Province and the City of Florence for their cooperation with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe in the organisation of the event;
- *took note* with great interest of the summary speech of the Council of Europe Celebration on the 10th Anniversary of the European Landscape Convention on « New challenges, new opportunities » (Florence, Italy, 19-20 October 2010) [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 10F, Part 1];

– *took note* of the interventions presented on this occasion [*CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 10F, Part 2*], available on the Council of Europe website of the European Landscape Convention (<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention> (under conference) or direct link:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/reunionconf/conf_en.asp?)

and of the forthcoming publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the Council of Europe Series “*European Spatial Planning and Landscape*”;

– discussed the most appropriate follow-up that should be given at international, national, regional and local levels;

– adopted the Resolution as it features in Addendum A to these final Conclusions.

5. Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

1) 8th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Landscape and driving forces” (Malmö/Alnarp, Sweden, 8-9 October 2009)

– *took note* with great interest of the General Conclusions of the 8th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Landscape and driving forces*” (Malmö/Alnarp, Sweden, 8-9 October 2009) and of the publication of the proceedings of the Meeting in the Council of Europe Series *European Spatial Planning and Landscape*”, 2010, No 93;

– warmly *thanked* the Swedish National Heritage Board and its partners, as mentioned below, for their cooperation with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe in the organisation of the event: Region Skåne, City of Malmö, Municipality of Lomma, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Federation of Swedish Farmers, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swedish Road Administration, National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Environmental Objectives Council, Swedish Forest Agency.

2) 9th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Landscape and infrastructures for the society” (Cordoba, Spain, 15-16 April 2010)

– *took note* with great interest of the General Conclusions of the 9th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “*Landscape and infrastructures for the society*” (Cordoba, Spain, 15-16 April 2010) and of the forthcoming publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the Council of Europe Series “*European Spatial Planning and Landscape*”;

– warmly *thanked* the Spanish Government – Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs –, the *Junta de Andalucía*, Department of Public Works and Housing, and the Centre for Landscape and Territory of Andalucía, Seville, Spain, for their cooperation with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe in the organisation of the event.

3) 10th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Landscape and multifunctionality” (Lisbon, Portugal, 20-21 (22) October 2011)

– warmly *thanked* the Government of Portugal for its proposal made in the Cordoba Workshops to hold the next meeting of the Workshop on “ *Landscape and multifunctionality*”, in Lisbon, 20-21 (22) October 2011.

4) *Future meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention*

– warmly *thanked* the Greek Government for its proposal to host a meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2012;

– *considered* that the next meetings of the workshops should be restructured to be adapted to the theme related to the daily life of citizens and, in particular, treat the following themes: “Landscape as a generator of a positive economy and creator of employment”; “Services provided by the eco-systems and the landscape”; “Agriculture and landscape policies”; “The impact of energies on the landscape”; “Landscape and economy”; “Territorial management systems and actors involved”; “Landscape, a tool for social cohesion”;

– *asked* participants to forward any other possible proposals they may have to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

6. Council of Europe thematic reports on the European Landscape Convention

– *took note* with great interest of the report “*Landscape and wind turbines*” [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 11E] produced under the Council of Europe’s work programme on the European Landscape Convention, and in particular its conclusions;

– *took note* with great interest of the report on “*Management of the territory: landscape management as a process*” [CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 13E] produced under the Council of Europe’s work programme on the European Landscape Convention, and in particular its conclusions;

– *welcomed* the future publication of “*Landscape dimensions*” by the Council of Europe Publishing (2011), which is a compilation of reports by Council of Europe experts over recent years.

7. Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

– *took note* of the document “*Landscape Award of the Council of Europe – Second Session 2010-2011*” [Document CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 5E – Part 1], which will be presented to the CDPATEP on the occasion of its meeting of 5-6 May 2011.

[See also for information: Document CEP-CDPATEP (2011) 5E – Part 2:
Forms presented for the Second Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award,
or direct link to the Landscape Award Website:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/Session2010_en.asp].

– also *took note* of the following elements:

- on 9 February 2010, the Parties to the Convention were invited to present candidatures to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- fourteen applications for the 2nd Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe 2010-2011 were submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the following Parties to the Convention: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Serbia also submitted an application, as a Signatory State;

- an international jury met in Strasbourg on 21-22 March 2011 to examine the candidatures and to propose the Award winner and to attribute special mentions where considered appropriate;
 - in the light of the proposals of the CDPATEP, the Committee of Ministers will grant the Award and special mentions;
 - the Award and the special mentions will be delivered by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with the participation of the President of the CDPATEP and of the President of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, or their representatives, at a public ceremony;
- *took note* that the CDPATEP will be invited to examine the meeting report of the jury and to forward its proposals concerning the Award winner and the attribution of special mentions to the Committee of Ministers;
- *welcomed* the proposal of Italy to host a meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops on the implementation on the European Landscape Convention in 2012 to share the experience of the two sessions of the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

8. Council of Europe Magazine “*Futuropa: for a new vision of landscape and territory*”

- *welcomed* the publication of the special issue of the magazine “*Futuropa: for a new vision of landscape and territory*”, No. 2, 2011 focusing on the European Landscape Convention, entitled “*Landscape and transfrontier cooperation*” which has helped raise awareness of landscape, and the preparation of the next issue on “*Landscape and public space*”.

9. International and national Meetings

- *thanked* the national, regional and local authorities of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the non-governmental organisations and institutes of these States, which contributed in liaison with the Council of Europe, to promote the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- *welcomed* the proposal of the Slovak Republic to host the meetings of the European Heritage Days on “*Heritage and landscape*” in 2013.

10. Synthesis of the debates of the Conference on the UNESCO document 186 EX/21 “*Preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on landscape*”

- *adopted* the text which figures in Addendum B to these final Conclusions.

11. Preparation of the 7th Council of Europe Conference on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2013

The Parties:

- *appreciated* the work done to promote the European Landscape Convention through the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention, and the meetings of the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and the working group,

In order to improve the performances, they *requested* that:

- the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention continue to be organised every two years;
- the Council of Europe Workshops on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention should be organised at least once a year;
- the Information System of the European Landscape Convention (L6) should be set up, renewing the terms of reference of the existing working group, in order to allow an active follow-up of the Convention, to encourage the exchanges of information between the parties and to promote the value of landscape for Europeans;
- the number of signatures and ratifications of the Convention should be increased, and that the representatives of States, local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations should be mobilised to this end.

12. Chair of the Conference of the European Landscape Convention

- sincerely *thanked* Mr Jean-François Seguin for the chairmanship of the Conference of the European Landscape Convention which he carried out perfectly during his two mandates;
- unanimously *elected* Mrs Marie-José Festas (Portugal) as Chairperson of the Conference of the European Landscape Convention and Mr Adem Bilgin (Turkey) as Vice-president of the Conference of the European Landscape Convention.

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Addendum A to the Final Conclusions

Resolution of the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 3-4 May 2011) on the follow up of the 10th Council of Europe Celebration of the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 19- 20 October 2010)

Following the presentations and debates to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention held in Florence on 19 and 20 October 2010, we can identify three main findings and three major challenges and opportunities for the future.

Findings:

1. Six years after its entry into force, the European Landscape Convention is being implemented in many Council of Europe member states, including some which have not yet ratified or signed it. The resultant work highlights the wealth and diversity of European landscapes, and tangible effects can already be felt on the individual and collective well-being of Europeans.
2. The vitality of the European Landscape Convention can be gauged by the heavy involvement of the States Parties and the increasing support from the general public, local and regional authorities and many other stakeholders for the principles and orientations set out in the instrument. There are very obvious echoes from many quarters, at all levels, to the effect that the European Landscape Convention has become an instrument which inspires action.
3. By responding to the aspirations of different population groups, particularly as regards their participation in developing and implementing landscape policies, the European Landscape

Convention is making a major contribution to improving awareness of the Council of Europe's ideals and principles.

Challenges and opportunities for the future:

This overall assessment is encouraging the Parties to the European Landscape Convention to:

1. Maintain the vitality of the European Landscape Convention by continuing to organise meetings of Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and the work of the Group of Experts. These meetings, which are held under the terms of reference of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP), are also intended to strengthen links between the European Landscape Convention and the work of the Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT), and other Council of Europe programmes;
2. Continue and intensify the identification and qualification of every European landscape by means of transfrontier and transnational co-operation. The outcome of this work should be accessible to all, particularly the younger generations, in order to consolidate the European identity and the feeling of belonging to a common space and culture. Developing the European Landscape Convention Information System (ELCIS) will help us pursue this ambitious goal;
3. Promote even more intensively the understanding of the landscape and public action under the European Landscape Convention. The Florence Convention is still an innovative text, promoting an approach to the landscape simultaneously involving democracy, ecology and aesthetics, and also eliciting combined action in terms of landscape protection, management and development.

The tools to be mobilised to reach these objectives are:

1. The Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention continue to be organised each two years;
2. The meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which should be organised at least once a year;
3. The Information System on the European Landscape Convention (L6) whose implementation is expected.

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Addendum B to the Final Conclusions

Synthesis of the debates of the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 3-4 May 2011), on the UNESCO document 186 EX/21

“Preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on landscape”

Having examined document 186 EX/21 of the UNESCO “*Preliminary study on the technical and legal aspects relating to the desirability of a new international standard-setting instrument on landscape*” the members of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention are extremely proud that the European Landscape Convention [*European Treaty Series of the Council of Europe, No 176*] inspires worldwide projects.

From the experience of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, it is possible to identify key criteria that would establish an international instrument on landscape that could prolong and strengthen the European Landscape Convention.

The first criterion is that “good governance” of everyday landscapes meets the aspirations of the people who legitimately wish to participate in the design and implementation of landscape policies. The landscape is, by nature, a topic which goes beyond the circle of experts. Thus, the landscape would be considered as a social process, aimed primarily at producing a resource as an individual and social well-being. This criterion would contribute significantly to the development of democracy.

The second criterion is to avoid seeking only a normative instrument. The parties to the European Landscape Convention do not think it appropriate to provide an international regulation on landscapes. The diversity of landscapes, the political and administrative structures are not compatible with the edition of “standards”. The members of the Conference show a firm interest in an instrument able to raise the collective intelligence of the States for a better management of everyday landscapes, wherever people live. It is thus necessary to consider the whole territory and not only those parts considered as remarkable.

The third criterion is to establish guidelines based on shared ideas and ideals and not on technical or legal arguments. At our Pan-European level, our common culture, history and raise geography have helped us to formulate precise definitions and strong principles based on peace, democracy and human rights in the European Landscape Convention. It appears moreover necessary that there be a good complementarity of this project with other conventions of UNESCO as in the conventions established in the framework of the Council of Europe.

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