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EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
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## EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

### PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

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*" The landscape ...*

*... has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;  
... contributes to the formation of local cultures and ... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;*

*... is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas ;*

*... is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone. "*

Preamble to the European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 in Strasbourg and opened for signature of the member states of the Organisation in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000. It 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.

The Council of Europe Celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Convention for signature was organised in Florence on 19-20 October 2010. New challenges and new opportunities for landscapes were considered during the event and statements by representatives of Member States of the Council of Europe were presented..

As of 28 October 2010, 32 States had ratified the Convention and six States had signed it. (List in Appendix).

## **I. PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

The member states of the Council of Europe signatory to the European Landscape Convention declared their concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. The Convention therefore represents the first international treaty devoted to sustainable development, with the cultural dimension also included therein.

### **1. Origins of the Convention**

On the basis of an initial draft prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers decided in 1999 to set up a select group of experts responsible for drafting a European Landscape Convention, under the aegis of the Cultural Heritage Committee (CCPAT) and the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP). Following the work of this group of experts, in which the principal governmental and non-governmental international organisations participated, the Committee of Ministers adopted the final text of the Convention on 19 July 2000. The Convention was opened for signature in Florence, Italy, on 20 October 2000 in the context of the Council of Europe Campaign "Europe, a common heritage".

### **2. Why a convention on landscape?**

As an essential factor of individual and communal well-being and an important part of people's quality of life, landscape contributes to human fulfilment and to the consolidation of a European identity. It also has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity, particularly to tourism.

The advances in production techniques in agriculture, forestry, industry and mining, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and more generally the global economic changes, have in many cases led to degradation, debasement or transformation of landscapes.

While each citizen should of course contribute to preserving the quality of the landscape, it is the responsibility of the public authorities to define the general framework in which this quality can be secured. The Convention thus lays down the general legal principles, which should guide the adoption

of national and community landscape policies and the establishment of international co-operation in this field.

### **3. The objectives and specificity of the Convention**

The aim of the Convention is to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. Its purpose is therefore to further the protection, management and planning of European landscapes, and to organise European co-operation in this field.

The scope of the Convention is extensive: it applies to the entire territory of the Parties and relates to natural, urban and peri-urban areas, whether on land, water or sea. It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes, but also ordinary everyday landscapes and degraded areas. Landscape is recognised irrespective of its exceptional value, since all forms of landscape are crucial to the quality of the citizens' environment and deserve to be considered in landscape policies. Many rural and urban fringe areas in particular are undergoing far-reaching transformations and should receive closer attention from the authorities and the public.

Given the breadth of scope, the active role of the citizens regarding perception and evaluation of landscapes is an essential point in the Convention. Awareness-raising is thus a key issue, in order for citizens to participate in the decision-making process, which affects the landscape dimension of the territory where they reside.

### **4. Definitions**

Terms used in the Convention are defined to ensure that they are interpreted in the same way:

- “Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;
- “Landscape policy” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- “Landscape quality objective” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings;
- “Landscape protection” means action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by the landscape's heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or human activity;
- “Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, to guide and harmonise changes, which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;
- “Landscape planning” means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

### **5. Undertakings of the Contracting Parties**

#### ***National measures***

In accepting the principles and aims of the Convention, the Contracting Parties undertake to protect, manage and/or plan their landscapes by adopting a whole series of general and specific measures on a national level, in keeping with the subsidiarity principle. In this context, they undertake to encourage the participation of the public and of local and regional authorities in the decision-making processes that affect the landscape dimension of their territory.

The Contracting Parties undertake to implement four general measures at national level:

- the legal recognition of landscape constituting an essential component of the setting for people's lives, reflecting the diversity of their common cultural and natural heritage and as the foundation of their identity;
- the establishment and implementation of policies to protect, manage and plan landscapes;
- procedures for the participation by the general public, local and regional authorities and other parties interested in the formulation and implementation of landscape policies;
- the integration of landscape into regional and town planning policies, cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, and any other policies, which may have a direct or indirect impact on the landscape.

The Contracting Parties further undertake to implement five specific measures at national level:

- awareness-raising: improving appreciation by civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value, function and transformation of landscapes;
- training and education: providing training for specialists in landscape appraisal and landscape operations, multidisciplinary training programmes on landscape policy, protection, management and planning, aimed at professionals in the private and public sector, for interested associations, and school and university courses, which, in the relevant subject areas, cover landscape-related values and questions of landscape protection, management and planning;
- identification and evaluation: mobilising those concerned in order to reach a better knowledge of landscape, guiding the work of landscape identification and evaluation through exchanges of experience and methods between the Parties at European level;
- setting landscape quality objectives: defining quality objectives for the landscapes, which have been identified and evaluated, after consulting the public;
- implementation of landscape policies: introducing policy instruments for the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes.

#### ***International measures: European co-operation***

The Contracting Parties also undertake to co-operate at international level in catering for the landscape dimension in international policies and programmes, and to recommend where appropriate the inclusion of landscape considerations in them. They accordingly undertake to co-operate in respect of technical and scientific assistance and exchange of landscape specialists for training and information, and to exchange information on all questions covered by the Convention.

Transfrontier landscapes are covered by a specific provision: the Contracting Parties undertake to encourage transfrontier co-operation at local and regional levels and, wherever necessary, to prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

#### ***Council of Europe Landscape Award***

The Convention provides for a "Council of Europe Landscape Award". It will recognise a policy implemented or measures to be taken by local and regional authorities or non-governmental organisations to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape which have proved effective in the long term and can thus serve as an example to other authorities in Europe. It should contribute to the stimulation of those working at local level and to the encouragement and recognition of exemplary landscape management.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

The Convention states that existing competent committees of experts set up under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe should be appointed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be responsible for monitoring its implementation. It also states that, following each meeting of the committees of experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe will transmit a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers and that the said committees should propose to the Committee of Ministers the criteria for conferring, and the rules governing, the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

On 19 July 2000, when the European Landscape Convention was adopted, the Ministers' Deputies "[...] instructed the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP) and the Cultural Heritage Committee (CDPAT) to monitor the implementation of the European Landscape Convention" (CM/Del/Dec(2000)718, 718th meeting).

The Declaration of the Second Conference of Contracting and Signatory States to the European Landscape Convention adopted in Strasbourg on 29 November 2002, of which the Committee of Ministers took note on 28 May 2003, also asked the Committee of Ministers to associate the Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) in the work of the committees of experts responsible under Article 10 for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

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 following Conventions on cultural heritage and the landscape:

- the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised);
- the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe;
- the European Landscape Convention.

With regard to the follow-up of the European Landscape Convention, the terms of reference state that the CDPATEP should 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 work done by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe to implement the European Landscape Convention aims at:

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

## **1. Monitoring the implementation 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**

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. 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.

### **Summary descriptive notes on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states / Council of Europe Information System 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 those member states, is regularly updated and a synthesis of the data is prepared.

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

### **National seminars on the European Landscape Convention**

Thus are intended for states which have or have not yet ratified the Convention. The national seminars on the European Landscape Convention help generate the debate on landscape.

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

#### *National Seminars*

- *"Spatial planning and landscape"*, Yerevan (Armenia), 23-24 October 2003
  - *"Spatial planning and landscape"*, Moscow (Russian Federation), 26-27 April 2004
  - *"Sustainable spatial development and the European Landscape Convention"*, Tulcea (Romania), 6-7 May 2004
  - *"The contribution of Albania to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention"*, Tirana (Albania), 15-16 December 2005
  - *"Landscape"*, Andorra la Vella (Principality of Andorra), 4-5 June 2007
  - Other Seminars were organised with the support of the Ministries in various other countries in 2008-2010: Italy, Czech Republic...
- The proceedings of the Seminars are published in the Council of Europe's European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series.*

## **2. Fostering European co-operation**

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

### **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.

### ***Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention***

1. 22-23 November 2001, Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
2. 28-29 November 2002, Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
3. 17-18 June 2004, Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
4. 22-23 March 2007, Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
5. 30-31 March 2009, Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

### **Council of Europe Meetings of the 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 following of the Council of Europe meetings of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention have been held.

### ***Council of Europe Meetings of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention***

1. *“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”*, Strasbourg, France, 23-24 May 2002
2. *“Integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes and transfrontier landscapes; Landscapes and individual and social well-being; Spatial planning and landscape”*, Strasbourg, France, 27-28 November 2003
3. *“Landscapes for urban, suburban and peri-urban areas”*, Cork (Ireland), 16-17 June 2005
4. *“Landscape and society”*, Ljubljana (Slovenia), 11-12 May 2006
5. *“Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practice”*, Girona (Spain), 28-29 September 2006
6. *“Landscape and rural heritage”*, Sibiu (Romania), 20-21 September 2007
7. *“Landscape in planning policies and governance: towards integrated spatial management”*, Piestany (Slovakia), 24-25 April 2008
8. *“Landscape and driving forces”*, Malmö (Sweden), 8-9 October 2009
9. *“Landscape, infrastructures and society”*, Cordoba (Spain), 15-16 April 2010

*The proceedings of the Meetings of the workshops are published in the Council of European Spatial Planning and Landscape Series.*

### **3. Collecting examples of good practice: the landscape award of the Council of Europe**

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.

### ***Sessions of the Council of Europe Landscape Award:***

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Session 2008-2009***

Eight projects were submitted to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe:

<b>States</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Language*</b>
Czech Republic	Tourist Club	Marking system of the tourist trails	E
Finland	Hämeenkyrö	Landscape Management of Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area	E
France	Lille Métropole	Parc de la Deûle	E/F
Hungary	Public Foundation for Nature Conservation Pro Vértes	Implementation of the Complex Nature Conservation and Landscape Management Programme in the Zámoly Basin	E
Italy	Val di Cornia	The Val di Cornia Parc System	E
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana	Regional Distribution of Landscape Types	E
Spain	San Sebastián City Council	Parque de Christina Enea	E/S
Turkey	Association for Nature Conservation	Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project	E

\* File language : E = English; F = French; S = Spanish

At their 1066th Meeting of 23 September 2009, the Committee of Ministers' Deputies decided:

- to confer the Council of Europe Landscape Award, under the European Landscape Convention, to the “Parc de la Deûle”, Lille Métropole (France);
- to give a special mention of the Council of Europe Landscape Award to the “Parque de Christina Enea”, San Sebastián (Spain);
- to congratulate the originators of the projects and the achievements linked with the following briefs: “Marking system of the tourist trails”, Tourist Club (Czech Republic); “Landscape Management of Hämeenkyrö National Landscape Area”, Hämeenkyrö (Finland); “Implementation of the Complex Nature Conservation and Landscape Management Programme in the Zámoly Basin”, Public Foundation for Nature Conservation Pro Vértes (Hungary); “The Val di Cornia Parc System”, Val di Cornia (Italy); “Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management Project”, Association for Nature Conservation (Turkey);
- to recognise the exemplary value of the work entitled “Regional Distribution of Landscape Types”, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The Landscape Award and the Special Mention were officially presented on 8 October 2009 by the representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 8th Meeting of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Malmö, Sweden, 8-9 October 2009) and that several press releases were published on this occasion.

#### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Session 2010-2011***

On 9 February 2010, the Parties to the Convention were invited to present candidatures to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe by 31 December 2010. The second award will be delivered in 2011.

#### **4. 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***

- 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;
- 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;
- Landscape and wind turbines (2011).

*The reports are available at the Council of Europe Publishing:*

- Council of Europe, *Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006

- Council of Europe, *Landscape dimensions*, Council of Europe Publishing (to be published)

in 2011)

## **5. Raising awareness**

### ***“Futuropa, for a new vision of landscape and territory” magazine***

Several information documents and four issues of the Council of Europe’s “*Naturopa*” 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.

#### *Themes concerning landscape*

- “Landscapes: the setting for our future lives”, *Naturopa*, 1998, No 86
- “The European Landscape Convention”, *Naturopa*, 2002, No 98
- “Landscape through literature”, *Naturopa/Culturopa*, 2005, No 103
- “Vernacular rural housing: heritage in the landscape”, *Futuropa: for a new vision of landscape and territory*, 2008, No 1
- “Landscape and transfrontier co-operation”, *Futuropa: for a new vision of landscape and territory*, 2010, No 2

**Website of *Naturopa* / *Futuropa*:** [www.coe.int/naturopa/futuropa](http://www.coe.int/naturopa/futuropa)

### ***“International Heritage Photographic Experience - Heritage and Landscape” (IHPE) Ceremony***

The prize-winning photographs from the “International Heritage Photographic Experience - Heritage and Landscape” (IHPE) competition are regularly displayed in the Committee of Ministers Foyer at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg along with a prize-winning ceremony involving about a hundred young people from various countries organised. The competition is intended to encourage young people to adopt a creative approach and take a personal look, via the medium of photography, at elements of the cultural heritage around them, in liaison with the landscape.

## **6. Fostering access to information: the European Landscape Convention website**

The Council of Europe European Landscape Convention websites includes the following:

## European Landscape Convention website

### The European Landscape Convention

As a reflection of European identity and diversity, the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage, be it ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water.

The [European Landscape Convention](#) - also known as the Florence Convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. The convention was adopted on 20 October 2000 in Florence (Italy) and came into force on 1 March 2004 (Council of Europe Treaty Series no. 176). It is open for signature by member states of the Council of Europe and for accession by the European Community and European non-member states. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape. ([more...](#))



#### About the Convention

- ▶ [Text of the Convention](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)
- ▶ [Explanatory report](#)
- ▶ [Parties to the Convention](#)
- ▶ [Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)

#### Documentation

- ▶ [Reference texts of the Council of Europe about landscape](#)
- ▶ [Publications of the Council of Europe](#)
- ▶ [Convention leaflet](#)
- ▶ [Naturopa/Futuropa magazines](#)

#### Meetings of the Convention

- ▶ [Conferences](#)
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#### Landscape Award

- ▶ [Rules of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe](#) | [Linguistic versions](#)
- ▶ Award sessions: [2008-2009](#) | [2010-2011](#)

#### National actions

- ▶ [National implementation](#)
  
- ▶ [Compendium of national data](#)

#### News

▶ [9th Meeting of the Council of Europe Workshops on the European Landscape Convention \(CoE - ELC\) on "Landscape, Infrastructure and Society", 15-16 April 2010, Cordoba \(Spain\)](#)

▶ [Calendar 2010](#)

#### Restricted access

▶ [Steering Committee for Heritage and Landscape \(CDPATEP\)](#)

#### Related activities

▶ [Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for regional/spatial planning \(CEMAT\)](#)

#### Contacts

▶ [Council of Europe](#)

European Landscape Convention website:  
[www.coe.int/EuropeanlandscapeConvention](http://www.coe.int/EuropeanlandscapeConvention)  
[www.coe.int/EuropeanlandscapeConvention/fr](http://www.coe.int/EuropeanlandscapeConvention/fr)

In 2011, the site will also offer access to the Council of Europe Information System of the European Landscape Convention 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.

## Conclusion

The Action Plan adopted by the Heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 17 May 2005), at the Third Summit of the Council of Europe includes a section on the promotion of sustainable development and states: "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".

Examples of progress achieved during the last ten years:

- the landscape is progressively included in the political agenda of governments,
- an important network of cooperation at international level for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention has been developed,
- the concept of landscape, as defined by the Convention, is becoming more and more recognised in public policies at international, national, regional and local levels as well as by populations,
- new forms of cooperation are developed between different levels of authorities (international, national, regional and local) and between ministries or departments of one State or region,
- specific working structures for landscape (observatories, centers or landscape institutes) have been created,
- specific laws and regulations referring to landscape have been developed according to the provisions of the Convention,
- States or regions cooperate beyond their borders for transfrontier landscapes,
- national landscape awards referring to the European Landscape Convention have been launched,
- university programmes have been developed with a reference to the Convention and summer universities on landscape are organised,
- biennale landscape festivals and exhibitions are organised and films referring to the European Landscape Convention prepared.

The European Landscape Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today<sup>1</sup>. By taking into account landscape qualities, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and individual and collective well-being of Europeans.

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<sup>1</sup> *Humans Rights and the Environment*, Council of Europe Publishing 2002, 341 p.; Council of Europe, *Landscape and sustainable development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*, Council of Europe Publishing, 2006, 213 p.

**APPENDIX**  
**STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**



**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 Union 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: 28/10/2010**

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	9/4/2010									
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	11/5/2010	15/9/2010	1/1/2011							
Germany										
Greece	13/12/2000	17/5/2010	1/9/2010							
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								
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:	32

#### 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>

