The European Landscape Convention

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division

To cite this article: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division (2006) The European Landscape Convention, Landscape Research, 31:4, 363-384, DOI: 10.1080/01426390601004343

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01426390601004343

Published online: 23 Jan 2007.
The European Landscape Convention

MAGUELONNÉ DÉJEANT-PONS
Spatial Planning and Landscape Division, Council of Europe, France

ABSTRACT Adopted in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000, the European Landscape Convention is aimed at promoting the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organising European cooperation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape. 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 blighted areas. The Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the objectives of the Council of Europe: these seek to protect Europeans’ quality of life and well-being, taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values. 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 cultural dimension is also of fundamental importance.

KEY WORDS: European Landscape Convention, European cooperation, sustainable development, quality of life, well-being

Introduction

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

Correspondence Address: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division, Council of Europe – DG IV, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France.
Email: maguelonne.DEJEANT-PONS@coe.int

ISSN 0142-6397 Print/1469-9710 Online/06/040363-22 © 2006 Landscape Research Group Ltd
DOI: 10.1080/01426390601004343
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 Council of Europe and Sustainable Development

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg, France, and it has 46 member states. Its main objectives are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. It is active in promoting sustainable spatial development in line with Recommendation Rec. (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent (PDDTDCME-CEMAT), adopted at the 12th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) of Council of Europe member states. These seek to protect Europeans’ quality of life and well-being, taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values.

The Action Plan adopted by heads of state and government of Council of Europe member states in Warsaw on 17 May 2005 at the Third Summit has a section on “promoting sustainable development” which reads: “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”.

Origins of the Convention

On the basis of a first draft prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe under its Recommendation 40 (1998), the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe decided to create a restricted group of experts tasked with drawing up a European Landscape Convention, under the aegis of the Cultural Heritage Committee (CDPAT) and the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (CO-DBP). As a result of the work done by this group, in which the main international, governmental and non-governmental organisations were involved, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the final text of the Convention on 19 July 2000. The Convention was opened for signature in Florence, Italy, on 20 October 2000 as part of the Council of Europe campaign “Europe, a common heritage”.

Entry into Force of the Convention and the State of Signatures and Ratifications

The European Landscape Convention entered into force on 1 March 2004, which was the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three
months after the date on which 10 Council of Europe member states consented to be bound by it.  

As at 12 April 2006, 11 states had signed it and 22 more had signed and ratified, accepted or approved it.  

Why a Landscape Convention?

A key factor in individual and social well-being and people’s quality of life, the landscape contributes to human development and serves to strengthen the European identity. It plays an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields and is a valuable resource conducive to economic activity, notably tourism.

Developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy have in many cases led to the destruction of landscapes, or rendered them featureless.

While every citizen must certainly play a part in preserving the quality of the landscape, public authorities have a duty to define the general framework for ensuring this quality. The Convention thus considers that landscape protection, management and planning entail “rights and responsibilities for everyone” and establishes the general legal principles which should serve as a basis for adopting national landscape policies and establishing international cooperation in such matters.

Structure of the Convention

The text of the Convention comprises a preamble and four main sections:

- Chapter I, setting out the objectives and scope of the Convention, plus key definitions;
- Chapter II, stating the measures to be taken at national level;
- Chapter III, stating the basis for European cooperation, the measures to be taken at international level and the role of the committees responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention;
- Chapter IV, dealing with procedures for adopting the Convention and related matters.

Scope of the Convention

Basis of the Convention

Aims of the Convention. The Convention represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe’s objectives. The member states of the Council of Europe signatory to the Convention have declared that they are “concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and
the Convention is thus the first international treaty dedicated to sustainable development, including the cultural dimension.

The aims of the Convention are to promote European landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European cooperation on landscape issues. That means ensuring that due consideration is given to European landscapes through the adoption of national measures and the establishment of European cooperation between the Parties.

The preamble outlines the issues underlying the Convention, emphasising the following points:

- the Convention is part of the Council of Europe’s work on natural and cultural heritage, spatial planning, environment and local self-government;
- the concern for sustainable development expressed at the Rio de Janeiro conference in 1992 and later at the Johannesburg Summit in 2002 makes landscape an essential consideration in striking a balance between preserving the natural and cultural heritage as a reflection of European identity and diversity, and using it as an economic resource capable of generating employment in the context of the boom in sustainable tourism;
- the landscape is important as a component of the environment and of people’s surroundings in both town and country, whether the landscape in question is ordinary or of outstanding beauty. The public is accordingly encouraged to take an active part in landscape management and planning, and to feel it has responsibility for what happens to the landscape;
- the Council of Europe member states, anxious to promote through international agreements the ideals which are their common heritage, possess a precious asset in the landscapes, and one which needs to be maintained and managed by means of effective international cooperation based on a legal instrument exclusively devoted to landscape.

Relationship with other instruments. The signatory states declare in their preamble that they wish “to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe”. The Convention is thus the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of European landscape. A few international legal instruments are concerned with the subject of landscape, either directly or indirectly. None of them, however, deals directly, specifically and fully with European landscapes and their preservation, in spite of their invaluable contribution to our natural and cultural heritage and the numerous threats facing them. The Convention aims to fill this gap: it is thus distinct from the Unesco Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 16 November 1972, both formally and substantively. The two Conventions have different purposes, as do the organisations under whose auspices they were drawn up. One is regional in scope, the other world-wide. The Council of Europe Convention can be regarded as complementary to the Unesco one. As regards substantive scope, the Council of Europe Convention covers all landscapes, even those that are not of outstanding universal value. Similarly, its main objective is not to draw up a list of assets of exceptional universal value, but to introduce...
protection, management and planning rules for all landscapes based on a set of principles.

In the work leading up to the drafting of the Convention, constant reference was made to existing international and national legal texts concerned with landscape. The Convention states in its preamble that it has regard to the legal texts existing at international level in the field of protection and management of the natural and cultural heritage, regional and spatial planning, local self-government and transfrontier cooperation, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19 September 1979), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3 October 1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 16 January 1992), the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its additional protocols, the European Charter of Local Self-government (Strasbourg, 15 October 1985), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 5 June 1992), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972), and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 25 June 1998).

In order to avoid problems with other international legal instruments, the Convention states that it does not preclude the application of stricter provisions concerning landscape protection, management and planning contained in other existing or future binding national or international instruments.

Scope

Substantive scope. The policies and measures mentioned in the Convention cover all the forms of landscape which countries possess.

The Convention states that subject to the provisions of Article 15, it applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It thus covers both land areas and water areas, and applies both to inland waters (such as lakes and areas of brackish water) and marine areas (coastal waters and the territorial sea).

What makes the Convention original is that it applies to ordinary landscapes no less than to outstanding ones: it concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. Landscape is thus recognised irrespective of its exceptional value. This comprehensive coverage is justified for the following reasons: every landscape forms the setting for the lives of the population concerned, affects citizens’ quality of life and deserves to be taken into account in landscape policies. Also, urban and rural landscapes interlock in complex ways: most Europeans live in towns and cities (large or small), the quality of whose landscapes greatly affects their lives; and finally, rural landscapes occupy an important place in the European consciousness. Many rural and peri-urban areas in particular are undergoing profound changes and should receive more attention from the authorities and the public at large.
Extending the scope of local authorities’ official landscape action to cover the whole of national territory does not mean, however, that the same measures and policies must be applied to all landscapes. These measures and policies should be adaptable to particular types of landscape, which, depending on their specific characteristics, will need various forms of treatment at local level, ranging from the strictest conservation via protection, management and planning to actual creation. These various treatments may pave the way for major socio-economic development of the area concerned.

The Convention is not confined, either, to the cultural or man-made components of landscape: it is concerned with all of the components and how they interconnect.

Geographical scope. The Convention is open for signature by the member states of the Council of Europe. It is provided that after its entry into force, the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers may invite the European Community and any European state which is not a member of the Council of Europe to accede to the Convention by a majority decision as provided in Article 20.d of the Council of Europe Statute, and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers.

Territorial scope. The Convention states in an article entitled “Territorial application” that any state or the European Community may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which the Convention is to apply. In addition, any party may, at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. It is also provided that any declaration made under the foregoing provisions may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn by notification addressed to the Secretary General.

These provisions refer to the facility whereby some countries are allowed, on constitutional grounds, not to apply a ratified international treaty automatically to some territories, in particular overseas. Only territories which have a special status are covered, such as overseas territories or the Faroe Islands or Greenland in the case of Denmark, the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey in the case of the United Kingdom. It is well understood, however, that it would be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention for any Party to exclude parts of its main territory from the Convention’s scope and that it was unnecessary to make this point explicit in the Convention.

Temporal scope. The Convention has the advantage of applying indefinitely, and of being implemented under the auspices of an international organisation, the Council of Europe.

Like any international Convention, this Convention is a dynamic legal instrument, which evolves together with the subject matter of its provisions. The way in which landscape values and interests are addressed should thus be able to keep pace with changes in those values and interests. It is therefore
provided that any Party or the committees of experts mentioned in the Convention may propose amendments to the Convention. Amendments can adapt or improve a Convention. The committees of experts mentioned in Article 10 of the Convention may prepare amendments and consider those suggested by Parties.

Content of the Convention

Legal Obligations

Definitions. The terms used in the Convention are defined in Article 1 in order to ensure that they are interpreted uniformly by everyone concerned with the well-being of Europe's landscapes:

- “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 adoption 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 its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;
- “landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as 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.

In each area of landscape, the balance between these three types of activity depends on the character of the area and the objectives agreed. Some areas may merit the strictest protection. At the other extreme, there may be areas whose landscapes are severely damaged and need entire reshaping. Most landscapes need a combination of the three modes of action, and some of them require some degree of intervention.

In seeking the right balance between protection, management and planning of a landscape, the Convention does not aim to preserve or ‘freeze’ the landscape at a particular point in its lengthy evolution. Landscapes have always changed and will continue to change, both through natural processes and through human action. In fact, the aim should be to manage future changes in a way which recognises the great diversity and the quality of the landscapes that we inherit and which seeks to preserve, or even enhance, that diversity and quality instead of allowing them to decline.
Obligations

At national level. The Contracting Parties undertake to protect, manage and/or plan their landscapes by means of a whole series of general and specific measures at national level, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity. Each Party implements the Convention, in particular the articles concerning the measures to be taken at national level, according to its own division of powers, in conformity with its constitutional principles and administrative arrangements, taking into account the European Charter of Local Self-government. The Convention must therefore be implemented at the most appropriate level of government for landscape action and if necessary, local and regional authorities, and groupings of such authorities, must be guaranteed formal involvement in the implementation process.

Where local and regional authorities have the necessary competence, protection, management and planning of landscapes will be more effective if responsibility for their implementation is entrusted—within the constitutional framework laid down in law at national level—to the authorities closest to the communities concerned. Each country should set out in detail the tasks and measures for which each level—national, regional or local—is responsible and should lay down rules for inter-level coordination of such measures, in particular where town planning and regional planning instruments are concerned.23

The Contracting Parties undertake to implement four general measures:

- to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;
- to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning;
- to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of landscape policies;
- to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.24

The Contracting Parties further undertake to implement, in a consecutive manner, five specific measures:

- awareness-raising: this involves increasing awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them;
- training and education: this involves promoting: training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations; multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for the relevant associations; school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning;
• identification and assessment: this involves mobilising the interested parties with a view to improving knowledge of the landscapes and guiding the landscape identification and assessment procedures through exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level;  
• landscape quality objectives: this involves framing landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation;  
• implementation: this involves introducing instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

At international level. The Contracting Parties undertake to cooperate in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion in them of landscape considerations. They further undertake to cooperate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under the Convention, and in particular: to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects; to promote the exchange of landscape specialists in particular for training and information purposes; and to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

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

Council of Europe Landscape Award. The Convention provides for a Council of Europe Landscape Award. On proposals from the Committees of Experts supervising the implementation of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers defines and publishes the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopts the relevant rules and confers the award. These criteria are currently being developed.

The award is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities or non-governmental organisations that have introduced policies or measures for the protection, management or planning of landscapes which have been of lasting worth and can serve as an example to other authorities throughout Europe. It is therefore intended as a stimulus to local players, encouraging and recognising quality stewardship of landscapes. It is to be conferred by the Committee of Ministers, on a proposal from the body supervising the implementation of the Convention.

The award may thus be conferred on local and regional authorities or groups thereof which have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.

Applications for the Council of Europe Landscape Award are submitted by the Parties to the body supervising the implementation of the Convention. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities
concerned—within one country or on a transborder basis—may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

The Convention stipulates that the granting of the Council of Europe Landscape Award is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned. The award is accordingly intended as a stimulus to a process, which countries throughout Europe could set in motion, of encouraging and recognising quality stewardship of landscapes. It could 'crown' national level action, which might include, for example, organising national competitions.

Institutional Apparatus: The Body Supervising the Implementation of the Convention

Provisions of the Convention. The Council of Europe acts as secretariat for the Convention and has structures in which all the Parties to the Convention may be represented.

The Convention states that existing competent Committees of Experts set up under Article 17 of the Council of Europe Statute will be tasked by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

The Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe should be involved in the work of these committees relating to the Convention. Given local and regional authorities' increasing responsibilities with regard to the protection, management and planning of landscape, the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe may convey opinions to the Committee of Ministers on the reports drawn up by the Council of Europe committees responsible for monitoring the application of the Convention, on the basis of Article 2, indent 2 of Statutory Resolution (2000) 1.

The Convention states that following each meeting of the Committees of Experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe will forward a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers and that these committees will propose to the Committee of Ministers the criteria for conferring and the rules governing the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

Implementation of the institutional apparatus. It transpired that it would be easier to achieve the objectives of the Convention if the representatives of Contracting Parties were able to meet regularly to devise joint coordinated programmes and to jointly monitor the application of the Convention.

Given the many aspects of the concept of landscape and landscape-related activities, it was decided in July 2000 that the monitoring of the application of the Convention would be entrusted to 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) which work, within the Council of Europe, in the sphere addressed by the Convention and have direct access to the Committee of Ministers. After the Convention came into force, it was felt that in order to carry out this task, the committees could hold joint meetings within the framework of
The European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention benefited from an appropriate forum for discussion. The Declaration of the Second Conference of Contracting and Signatory States of the European Landscape Convention, adopted in Strasbourg on 29 November 2002 and noted by the Committee of Ministers on 28 May 2003, further requested the Committee of Ministers to involve the Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (CEMAT) in the competent Committees of Experts, tasked under Article 10 of the Convention with monitoring its implementation.35

After 1 March 2004, the date of its entry into force, it was felt that the Convention needed a structure that would enable it to play its role to the full and contribute to the development in states, of policies reflecting the principles enshrined therein. This structure is in the process of being set up.36

**Implementation of the Convention**

*Conferences of the Contracting and Signatory States to the Convention (2001 and 2002) and the Conference Held on the Occasion of the Entry into Force of the Convention (2004)*

Two Conferences of the Contracting and Signatory States to the European Landscape Convention were held on 22 and 23 November 2001 and on 28 and 29 November 2002 to bring together, with a view to the entry into force of the Convention, the Contracting and Signatory States, the states invited to sign it and observers.37

The three Council of Europe bodies—the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe—were represented, as were the following international governmental organisations: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)—the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Benelux Economic Union.

The main international non-governmental organisations specialising or interested in landscape were also represented: Europae Archaeologicae Consilium (EAC), European Centre for Environment Law (CEDE), European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS), European Foundation of Landscape Architecture (EFLA), European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST), European Foundation Il Nibbio (FEIN), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), European Palaeontological Association, European Pathways to Cultural Landscapes (EPCL), Nature and Landscape Europe (ALterra), European Centre for Rural and Environmental Interest (CEIRE), European Academy for Landscape Culture (PETRARCA). A few national non-governmental organisations were also present: Société française pour le droit de l’environnement (SFDE), Legambiente, Atelier dei paesaggi mediterranei, Landscape Alliance Ireland, Centro Studi Pan.
Among other things, these conferences served to:

- promote the signature and/or ratification of the Convention so that it could swiftly enter into force;
- provide legal assistance for the signatory states and Council of Europe member states invited to sign the Convention;
- pave the way for the actual implementation of the Convention following its entry into force.

A major Declaration was adopted at the close of the second conference.38

The European Landscape Convention entered into force on 1 March 2004. A Conference was held to mark the occasion on 17 June 2004, at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg.39 Participants at a joint meeting of the Cultural Heritage Steering Committee (CDPAT) and the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP), held on 18 June 2004, further adopted draft terms of reference for a European Landscape Convention coordination committee and a working programme for 2005.40

Activities Conducted

The purpose of the activities is to:

- raise awareness of what landscape is and its importance for each individual and society as a whole;
- increase the number of signatures and ratifications of the European Landscape Convention;
- monitor the implementation of the Convention by those states which have ratified it, while inviting other states to join in the efforts;
- support the exercise of good governance based on horizontal (interdisciplinary, intercultural), vertical (national, regional, local) and transversal (public participation and public–private partnership) cooperation; and
- promote European cooperation between states which have ratified the Convention with the participation of other states and the partnership of governmental and non-governmental international organisations.

Meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and the reports prepared. Organised 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 various aspects of the Convention. Special emphasis is given to the experiences of the state hosting the meeting. A genuine forum for sharing practice and ideas, these meetings are also an opportunity to present new concepts and achievements in connection with the European Landscape Convention.41

Three meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention have been held so far, in an effort to promote discussion and provide a showcase for practical experiences and examples:42 on 23 and 24 May 2002...
and on 27 and 28 November 2003 in Strasbourg and on 16 and 17 June 2005 in Cork. An exhibition on “Landscape through the eyes of children” was also staged in 2003, at the second meeting of the Workshops.

The following five topics were examined in 2002:

- landscape policies: the contribution to the well-being of European citizens and to sustainable development (social, economic, cultural and ecological aspects) (Preamble to the Convention);
- identification and assessment of the landscape and landscape quality objectives, using both cultural and natural resources (Article 6 of the Convention);
- awareness-raising, training and education (Article 6 of the Convention);
- innovative tools for the protection, management and planning of landscape (Article 5 of the Convention);
- landscape award (Article 11 of the Convention).

Three new topics were examined in 2003:

- integration of landscapes in international policies and programmes (Article 7 of the Convention) and transfrontier landscapes (Article 9 of the Convention);
- landscape and individual and social well-being (Preamble to the Convention);
- spatial planning and landscape (Article 5 d of the Convention).

The Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention held in Cork on 16 and 17 June 2005 were devoted to the subject “Landscapes for urban, suburban and peri-urban areas” (Article 5 d of the Convention).

Reports were also published on each of these topics by Council of Europe experts who helped draft the European Landscape Convention. In addition, a report on public participation was drawn up (Article 5 d, 6 D of the Convention).

Two further meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention will be held in 2006:

- in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 11 and 12 May 2006 on “Landscape and society” (Preamble to the Convention);
- in Girona, Spain, on 28 and 29 September 2006 on “Landscape quality objectives: from theory to practice” (Article 6 of the Convention, C, D, E).

National seminars on the European Landscape Convention. Intended for states which have or have not yet ratified the Convention, the national seminars on the European Landscape Convention help generate national, interdisciplinary debate on the subject of landscape.

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

- seminar on “Spatial planning and landscape”, Yerevan, Armenia, 23–24 October 2003;
• seminar on “Spatial planning and landscape”, Moscow, Russian Federation, 26–27 April 2004;
• seminar on “Sustainable spatial development and the European Landscape Convention”, Tulcea, Romania, 6–7 May 2004;
• seminar on “The contribution of Albania to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention”, Tirana, Albania, 15–16 December 2005.

Another seminar is to be held in Cyprus in 2007.

Summary descriptive notes on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states. A document entitled “Summary descriptive notes on the landscape policies pursued in Council of Europe member states”, giving the key facts concerning the landscape of the various Council of Europe member states, has been produced, together with a synthesis of the information contained in the notes, making it possible to examine the policies currently being pursued in this area across Europe. The notes are designed to be updated on a regular basis.

The following information has been gathered: signature/ratification/approval of the Convention; name and contact details of the correspondent; definition of the term “landscape” in each national language; legal organisation (legal definition of the term “landscape”; constitutional or legislative status, regional laws), administrative organisation (ministry responsible for landscape, responsibilities, documents, representation at the level of regional and local authorities, specific programmes, education syllabi, communication, awareness-raising or information programmes aimed at the public).

Naturopa issues devoted to the European Landscape Convention. Three issues of the Council of Europe’s Naturopa magazine have been devoted to landscape and the European Landscape Convention.

• “Landscapes: the setting for our future lives”, Naturopa, 86, 1998;
• “The European Landscape Convention”, Naturopa, 98, 2002;
• “Landscape through literature”, Naturopa/Culturopa, 103, 2005 (special issue, European Landscape Convention).

This latest issue brings together texts and pictures from the 46 Council of Europe member states to show that landscape has always had a key spiritual part to play in the lives of individuals everywhere.

European Landscape Convention Web Site

The Convention web site is laid out as follows:

• presentation of the European Landscape Convention;
• state of signatures and ratifications of the European Landscape Convention;
• implementation of the European Landscape Convention (before and since its entry into force);
meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;

- national seminars on the European Landscape Convention;
- reference texts on landscape;
- national policies;
- network of partners of the European Landscape Convention;
- landscape calendar;
- publications;
- contacts.

It is designed to facilitate the sharing of experience and good practice, stimulate dialogue and provide a showcase for European landscape policies.

**Conclusion**

A thoroughly modern concept, landscape combines all four elements of sustainable development: natural, cultural, social and economic. It is also a constantly evolving story, the main thread of which may be grasped by examining the history, characteristics and modern reality of a particular area, and the way society perceives it.

A unique setting and meeting place for populations, landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies. A source of inspiration, it takes us on a journey, both individual and collective, through time, space and imagination.

Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its national and international policies.

**Notes**

1 As at 12 April 2006: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.


4 By depositing an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

5 See Appendix.

6 Preamble to the Convention.

7 Article 3 of the Convention (Aims).
8 The Preamble to the Convention notes that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and that this aim is pursued in particular through agreements in the economic and social fields.

9 The Preamble to the Convention acknowledges that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to cooperate towards its protection, management and planning. In addition to their local significance, Europe’s landscapes are of value to all Europeans. They are cherished outside the locality and beyond national borders. In addition there are landscapes which have identical characteristics on both sides of borders and therefore require transborder measures to implement the action principles. Finally, landscapes bear the consequences, whether positive or negative, of processes which may originate elsewhere and whose impact is not checked by national boundaries. That is why it is legitimate to be concerned with landscape at European level. In their diversity and quality, the cultural and natural values linked to European landscapes are part of Europe’s common heritage, and so European countries have a duty to make collective provisions for the protection, management and planning of these values. Only an international Convention at Council of Europe level can help to reach this objective in order to provide a legal reference for other international initiatives in this field.

10 These include the Unesco Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, the Committee of Ministers Recommendation 95 (9) on the integrated conservation of cultural landscape areas as part of landscape policies and Recommendation 79 (9) of the Committee of Ministers concerning the identification and evaluation card for the protection of natural landscapes, the Mediterranean Landscape Charter (Resolution 256 (1994) on the 3rd Conference of Mediterranean Regions, Taormina, Italy, 5–7 April 1993), the European Community regulation on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, the European Community directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, the European Community directive on the assessment of environmental effects, and other important national, European Community and international instruments.

11 Article 12 of the Convention (Relations with other instruments). The wording of this article is based on model provisions already used in other international Conventions in order to deal with the problem of linking up Conventions concerned with similar fields.

12 Article 2 of the Convention (Scope). See “Territorial scope”.

13 Article 13 of the Convention (Signature, ratification, entry into force). The Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval are to be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. In respect of any signatory state which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Convention will enter into force on the first day following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

14 In respect of any acceding state, or the European Community in the event of its accession, the Convention will enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (Article 14 of the Convention—Accession).

15 The Convention will take effect in respect of such a territory on the first day following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the declaration by the Secretary General (Article 15 of the Convention—Territorial scope).

16 Withdrawal will become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General (Article 15 of the Convention—Territorial scope).

17 Any Party may, however, at any time, denounce the Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General (Article 16 of the Convention—Denunciation).

18 Any proposal for amendment is notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who communicates it to the member states of the Council of Europe, to the other Parties, and to any
Any proposal for amendment is examined by the body supervising the implementation of the Convention which submits the text adopted by a majority of three-quarters of the Parties' representatives to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers, the text is forwarded to the Parties for acceptance. Any amendment enters into force in respect of the Parties which have accepted it on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which three Council of Europe member states have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance. In respect of any Party which subsequently accepts it, such amendment will enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which the said Party has informed the Secretary General of its acceptance (Article 17 of the Convention—Amendments).
25 Each Party accordingly undertakes to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory; to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them; to take note of changes; and to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned (Article 6 of the Convention—Specific measures).

26 Article 6 of the Convention (Specific measures).

27 Article 7 of the Convention (International policies and programmes). The Convention should allow international bodies and programmes to take more account of landscape. To that end the Parties most aware of the landscape problem should play an active part by coordinating their ideas and proposals in the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention. It is further provided that the Council of Europe should engage in particular landscape cooperation with other governmental international organisations, in particular Unesco, the European Union and IUCN, as well as with other non-governmental organisations.

28 Article 8 of the Convention (Mutual assistance and exchange of information). Recent years have seen a burgeoning of political, professional and academic interest in the subject of landscapes, hence the development of a growing body of experience and expertise on which member states, local and regional authorities and others can draw as they seek to implement the Convention. At the same time, the growth of electronic communication and the arrival of the Internet have provided radically improved tools for exchanging ideas and, indeed, for the technical study of landscapes. These developments create a much wider basis for the exchange of ideas and mutual support than was possible even a decade ago, allowing local actors throughout Europe to take part and thus creating a true "landscape democracy".

29 Article 9 of the Convention (Transfrontier landscapes). This article requires the parties to set up transfrontier programmes for the identification, evaluation, protection, management and planning of landscapes which straddle borders. In doing so, they are asked to rely as far as possible, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle defined by the European Charter of Local Self-government, on local and regional authorities, and to use the implementation tools advocated in the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities in Europe of 21 May 1980 and its additional protocols.

30 Article 11 of the Convention (Council of Europe Landscape Award). The Explanatory Report states that local and regional authorities, groups of them, and non-governmental organisations can apply for the award through their member state. This will enable the contracting Party to appraise the applications, possibly in a national competition carrying national prizes or awards, and to put forward to the competent committee of experts, the national winner or a small number of candidates for consideration for the award.

31 The text of the Convention as drawn up in Florence on 20 October 2000 is deposited, in English and French, in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe is required to transmit certified copies to each member state of the Council of Europe and to any state or to the European Community should they be invited to accede to the Convention. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe must further notify in particular the member states of the Council of Europe, any state or the European Community, having acceded to the Convention, of any signature; the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession; any date of entry into force of the Convention in accordance with Articles 13, 14 and 15; any declaration made under Article 15; any denunciation made under Article 16; any proposal for amendment, any amendment adopted pursuant to Article 17 and the date on which it comes into force; any other act, notification, information or communication relating to the Convention (Article 18 of the Convention—Notifications).

32 Article 10 of the Convention (Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention).

33 Article 10 of the Convention (Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention). The Explanatory Report states that the CLRAE is called upon to participate actively in the follow-up activities and to give its opinion on the criteria for the conferral of the Council of Europe Landscape Award.

34 On 19 July 2000, on the occasion of the adoption of the European Landscape Convention, 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
On 28 May 2003, when examining the abridged report of the seventh meeting of the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP) held in Geneva on 29 January 2003, the Ministers’ Deputies took note of the Declaration of the Second Conference of Contracting and Signatory States of the European Landscape Convention (28–29 November 2002, Strasbourg), which “asks the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe 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 which have responsibility under Article 10 for monitoring implementation of the Convention” (CM/Del/Dec. (2003) 840, 840th meeting).


See the report T-FLOR 2 (2002) 27.


All of these documents are available on the European Landscape Convention web site (http://www.coe.int/Conventioneurope´ennedupaysage—in French—and http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention—in English). The records of the meetings are published in the Council of Europe’s “European Spatial Planning and Landscape” series.


All of these documents are available on the European Landscape Convention web site (http://www.coe.int/Conventioneurope´ennedupaysage—in French—and http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention—in English). The proceedings of the seminars are published in the Council of Europe’s “European Spatial Planning and Landscape” series.


The Naturopa magazine, published since 1968, is designed to raise awareness among European citizens and decision-makers of the importance of sustainable development in Europe by focusing on its natural, cultural and landscape heritage.

http://www.coe.int/Conventioneurope´ennedupaysage (in French) and http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention (in English).
# Appendix 1

## 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 Community 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: 12/4/2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member States of the Council of Europe</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification</th>
<th>Entry into force</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>22/10/2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td>28/10/2004</td>
<td>1/2/2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Date of Ratification 1</td>
<td>Date of Ratification 2</td>
<td>Date of Ratification 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>21/11/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>13/12/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>28/9/2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>27/7/2005</td>
<td>27/7/2005</td>
<td>1/11/2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>21/12/2001</td>
<td>27/9/2004</td>
<td>1/1/2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td>29/3/2005</td>
<td>1/7/2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia and Montenegro</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Ratification</td>
<td>Entry into force</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>22/2/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>20/10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>21/2/2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-member States of the Council of Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification</th>
<th>Entry into force</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>R.</th>
<th>D.</th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>T.</th>
<th>C.</th>
<th>O.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Total number of signatures not followed by ratifications: 11
Total number of ratifications/accessions: 22

**Notes:** a: Accession - s: Signature without reservation as to ratification - su: Succession - r: Signature "ad referendum".

**Source:** Treaty Office on [http://conventions.coe.int](http://conventions.coe.int)