



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 11 January 2007

T-FLOR (2007) 1

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION – Florence Convention –

*Council of Europe
11 January 2007*

RESTRICTED WORKING MEETING CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

REPORT

*Document by the Secretariat General prepared by the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division
Document du Secrétariat Général préparé par la Division de l'aménagement du territoire et du paysage
Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage / Direction de la Culture et du Patrimoine culturel et naturel*

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1. Opening of the meeting

1. Mr Enrico Buergi, Chair of the European Landscape Convention Conferences, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (see list in Appendix 1).
2. The Secretariat proposed the discussion topics as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and the participants indicated their desire to comment informally.

2. Information on monitoring the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

3. Mr Daniel Théron, Deputy Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, presented the situation regarding monitoring of implementation of the European Landscape Convention and referred to the document on a proposed Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage, Landscape and the Human Environment (GR-C (2006) 33 of 9 November 2006).
4. The participants considered the document and said that the European Landscape Convention required synergy between the natural and cultural heritage and regional/spatial planning. They believed that it was necessary to promote a truly integrated approach and that a committee of the kind provided for in the document presented practical organisational difficulties because of the wide area covered and the need to respect the specific requirements of the various sectors. From this point of view and beyond the issue of possibly setting up a new steering committee, they felt it would be appropriate to allow for an interim period during which monitoring of implementation of the Convention could be trialled practically and effectively.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Secretariat would analyse the interim proposal and submit it to the relevant Ministers' Deputies rapporteur group before it took a final decision on the structure of a new committee.

5. The participants summed up their proposal for the interim period, as described below.
 - a. *In accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the Convention, it is proposed that an intersectoral landscape group based on the existing committees of experts be set up.*

Members of the intersectoral group:

The group would comprise:

- 9 government experts appointed in consultation with the chairs of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CDPAT), the Committee of Senior Officials of the CEMAT and the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (3 government experts per committee);
- representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of INGOs holding participatory status with the Council of Europe (with observer status);
- experts and consultants chosen by the Council of Europe on the basis of their know-how in the area of landscape and the relevant agenda.

Remit of the intersectoral group:

The group would be tasked with:

- making proposals on monitoring implementation of the Convention, taking account, in particular, of the proposals by the Council of Europe landscape conferences and helping to prepare them;
- preparing, on the basis of the experience acquired, a report containing a proposal for the future for submission by 31 December 2009 to the Committee of Ministers on the trial monitoring of the Convention. The report would have to take account both of the experience acquired in the course of

the Council of Europe's work concerning landscape during that period and of the simultaneous development of the structure of the steering committees.

b. It is also proposed that a Council of Europe landscape conference be convened as a Council initiative to promote the European Landscape Convention.

The Council of Europe landscape conference would comprise members (Council of Europe member states, both parties and non-parties to the Convention) and observers (states with observer status at the Council of Europe, international organisations, relevant non-governmental organisations and all other interested parties).

The conference would meet at regular intervals. It would not be confined to promoting and building on the European Landscape Convention, but would also allow the dissemination and exchange of landscape principles and practices. It should mainly be aimed at public bodies responsible for landscape in Council of Europe member states so as to enable them, in accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, to exchange information on their landscape activities and make proposals at the close of their discussions. Observers could also be invited (but not be allowed to take part in the adoption of conclusions).

3. Consideration of the document on guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- T- FLOR (2005) 6 (provisional document of 13 September 2005)

- T-FLOR (2006) 4 (provisional version of 22 December 2006)

6. For lack of time to discuss the above documents, the group agreed to meet again in Paris on 9 February 2007 to consider:

- the document on guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (T-FLOR (2005) 6 - provisional document of 13 September 2005);
- the draft rules for the landscape award of the European Landscape Convention (document T-FLOR (2006) 1 rev. of 7 July 2006).

4. Consideration of the draft agenda of the Conference of Contracting Parties and Signatories to the European Landscape Convention

- T-FLOR (2007) 1 (provisional version of 22 December 2006)

7. The participants believed that the Council of Europe landscape conference should be held on 22 and 23 March 2007 so as not to disappoint states' expectations and interrupt the momentum of the ratification process.

The conference should be tasked with:

- ensuring proper consideration of the results of the meetings of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- taking stock of the European development of the European Landscape Convention;
- assessing the implementation of the Convention;
- drawing up conclusions.

A distinction would have to be made between the items for decision and the items for information.

It would be worthwhile considering the issues of "Landscape and democracy" at a later stage.

5. Discussion concerning preparation of the sixth meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention

8. The participants thanked the Romanian representative for her proposal that the sixth meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention be held in Sibiu on 27 and 28 September 2007.

6. Other business

9. None

APPENDIX II

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Information on monitoring the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**
- 3. Consideration of the document on guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**
 - *T- FLOR (2005) 6 (provisional document of 13 September 2005)*
 - *T-FLOR (2006) 4 (provisional version of 22 December 2006)*
- 4. Consideration of the draft agenda of the Conference of Contracting Parties and Signatories to the European Landscape Convention**
 - *T-FLOR (2007) 1 (provisional version of 22 December 2006)*
- 5. Discussion concerning preparation of the sixth meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention**
- 6. Other business**

ANNEXE II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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