

Press Release

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Landscape Convention inspires policy to use landscape to improve everyone's quality of life

Strasbourg, 01.04.2009 – A well attended conference on the European Landscape Convention has set the stage for future action as participants from the 30 states that have ratified the Convention – and the 19 others that have either signed or hold observer status – took stock of progress since the Convention was launched in 2000. Total attendance reached some 150 including scores of NGO representatives and landscape experts.

The conference noted progress in how landscape projects in Council of Europe member states have embraced the new concept of landscape as explained in the Convention, emphasising the quality of the surroundings where people live.

Participants highlighted successful examples of state landscape projects inspired by the Convention which have taken into account for example sensory and emotional perceptions that people have of their environments. Projects were also highlighted and compared, which promote both rights and responsibilities of populations to play an active role in taking decisions and managing the quality of the places where they live.

Examples include the following:

- in France, trans-frontier workshops with Wallonia, Spain, Italy and England were organised;
- in United Kingdom, Action plans were constructed as part of current policies
- in Slovenia, a publication called "The European Landscape Convention implementation" and management plans for landscape parks were made
- in Italy, the Convention principles have been integrated into laws and policies from culture to rural development

Notes for Editors

The [European Landscape Convention](#) was opened to signature in Florence on 20 October 2000 and came into force on 1 March 2004, to promote European landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation in this area. It is the first international treaty exclusively concerned with all aspects of the European landscape and applies to the entire territory of the contracting Parties, covering natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas.

Indeed covering a broad range of categories – not just remarkable landscapes, but also ordinary everyday landscapes and blighted areas – the Convention represents an essential contribution to the Council of Europe: it takes into account landscape, cultural and natural values, to protect the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

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