



## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

### EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

[March 2015]

## IFLA EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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ANALUENGO  
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**The European Landscape Convention** was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2000 in Strasbourg and opened for signature of the Member States of the Organisation in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000, with the aims to promote European landscape and to organise European co-operation.

**It was the first international treaty** to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of European landscape, applying to the entire European territory. Its role has been decisive in the establishment of landscape policies during these past 15 years as all its signatory countries are obliged to harmonise its implementation with their own national policies so as to insure landscape protection, management and planning.

The ELC is both concerned with landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes: ***Landscape is an area as perceived by people***, and as such *contributes to the formation of local cultures and a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and the consolidation of the European identity.*

In as such, the Convention provides 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. In this sense, it is in the aims of the ELC to define our **landscapes for the future** establishing procedures for the participation of the general public, which is central to the development of a new territorial culture and the populations' life quality.

**In a few days**, from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March, the 8<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference on the ELC will take place in Strasbourg to present to the member States the progress made in its implementation, and practical questions related to it. These range from the legal recognition of the landscape in the signatory countries; the definition and implementation of landscape policies for its protection, management and planning; the identification and assessment of landscapes with special incidence on the role of landscape observatories, centres and institutes; as well as cultural, educational and awareness-raising issues. Furthermore, the interrelations between landscape, spatial planning, human rights and democracy will be analysed as well as the Council of Europe Observatory for the implementation of the Convention. Of course, the action plan for the next two years will also be discussed. Finally, the yearly Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe will be granted.

**As in previous years**, IFLA EUROPE will be represented at this Conference, which is the means by which the Council of Europe ensures the implementation of the Convention. The conclusions of the Conference will be brought to the attention of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) of which IFLA EUROPE participates too, which will then report to the Committee of Ministers.

Our Federation is furthermore present at the Conference, as information on the Landscape and Democracy Award granted to the Council of Europe by IFLA EUROPE at our last General Assembly in Oslo (2014), will be presented the first day of the Conference. If you want to let us know of any comments, suggestions or points of view on the ELC, feel free to reach us. **We are your voice.**