



INTEGRATION OF LANDSCAPE IN LAND USE PLANNING POLICY IN RELATION TO THE NEW EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

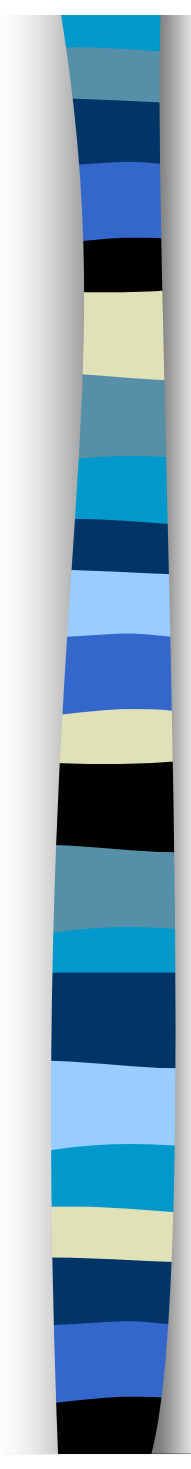
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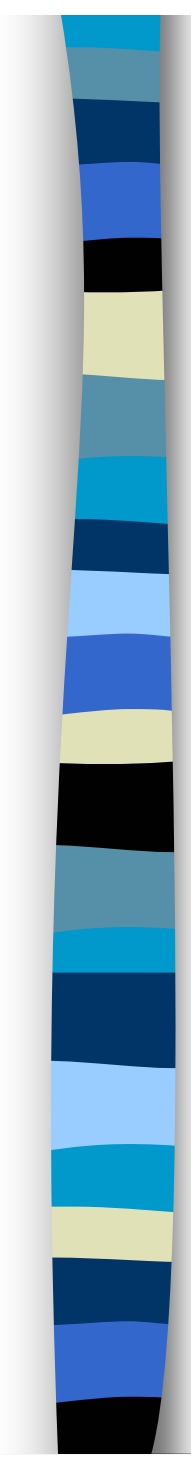
MAY 2004



The European Landscape Convention is the first regional convention exclusively dedicated to the landscape issue. It was opened for signature in Firenze (Italy) on October 20th 2000 and came into force on March 1st 2004.



The new convention gives practical effect to the pan European Strategy for biological and landscape diversity which environment ministries of **55 European countries approved in Sofia on October 25th, 1995 to contribute to **the implementation of the Rio Convention of 1992 on biological diversity****



Action theme n° 4 of the European Strategy was entitled “conservation of landscapes” and the aims to be achieved by the year 2000 were:

“To prevent future deterioration of the landscapes and their associated cultural and geological heritage in Europe and to preserve their beauty and identity. To correct the lack of integrated perception of landscapes as a unique mosaic of cultural, natural and geological features and to establish a better public and policy-maker awareness and more suitable protection status for these features throughout Europe”.



At the international level, the landscape is naturally attached to **three special sectors: the historical and cultural heritage, the natural environment and the town and country planning.** In a critical way one can notice that the **AGENDA 21** of the Rio conference on environment and development of **1992 contains no express reference to the landscape**



The famous **UNESCO convention of 16 November 1972** concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage mentions the landscape as an element of the world heritage but only for landscape of outstanding universal value (art. 1 para. 3)

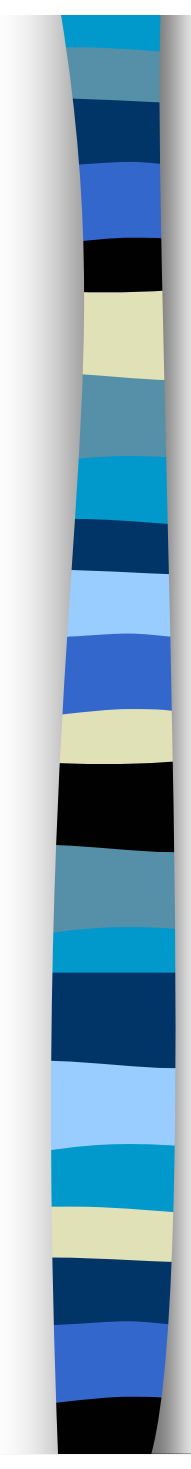


I - INNOVATIVE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

- 1 - the well-being for all**
- 2 - a sustainable development**
- 3 - the promotion of democracy in landscape policy**

II - THE ESSENTIAL MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

- 1- institutional instruments**
- 2- inventories and education**
- 3- integration instruments**



I - INNOVATIVE OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

The convention's main objectives and principles are concerned by guaranteeing three elements:

- 1 - the well-being for all**
- 2 - a sustainable development**
- 3 - the promotion of democracy in landscape policy**



The convention gives a broad and abstract definition of landscape:

“Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors”



1- LANDSCAPE AS A KEY ELEMENT OF WELL-BEING FOR ALL

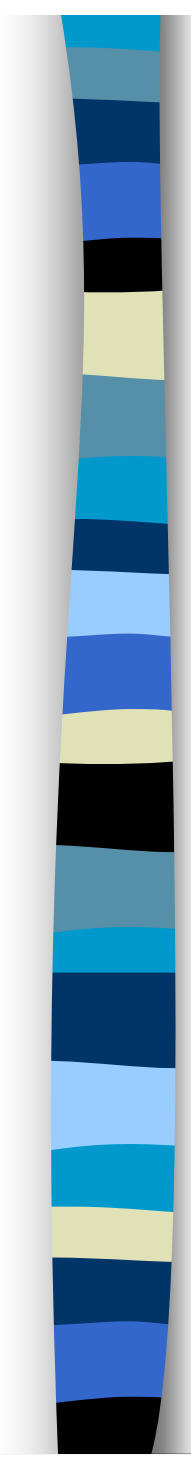
As stated in article 5-a of the European landscape Convention, landscapes are: **“an essential component of people’s surrounding, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity”** It is because landscape is indissociable from people’s surrounding that it is **“a key element of individual and social well-being”** as affirmed in the preamble to the Convention.



2 - LANDSCAPE POLICY, CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The preamble to the Convention gives prominence to sustainable development as one of the treaty 's objectives:

“Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment”



The preamble of the Convention, which, legally, has the same force as the body of the text, states the economic as well as the social impact of landscape:

“... (the landscape) constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation”



3 - LANDSCAPE POLICY AND PROMOTION OF ACTIVE DEMOCRACY

The European Convention is inspired by the principles of the Aarhus Convention of 1998 concerning access to information, public participation in the decision process and access to justice concerning the environment



There are three elements related to participation in landscape policy:

- The scope of participation**
- Participation arrangements**
- Participation effects**



II - THE ESSENTIAL MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

- 1- institutional instruments**
- 2- inventories and education**
- 3- integration instruments**



1- INSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Although the Convention is silent as to what institutions need setting up, the requirement to draw landscape policy, to recognize landscape in law and to integrate landscape in other policies calls for specific institutions to perform those functions.



2- INVENTORIES AND EDUCATION

Article 6-C of the Convention requires to identify all landscapes throughout the territory:

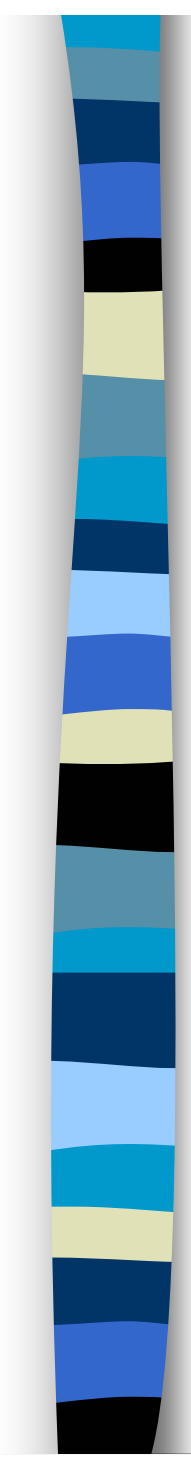
- 1. With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:**
 - a. i) to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;**
 - ii) to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;**
 - iii) to take note of changes;**
 - b. to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.**
- 2. These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.**



3- INTEGRATION INSTRUMENTS AND LANDSCAPE PLANNING

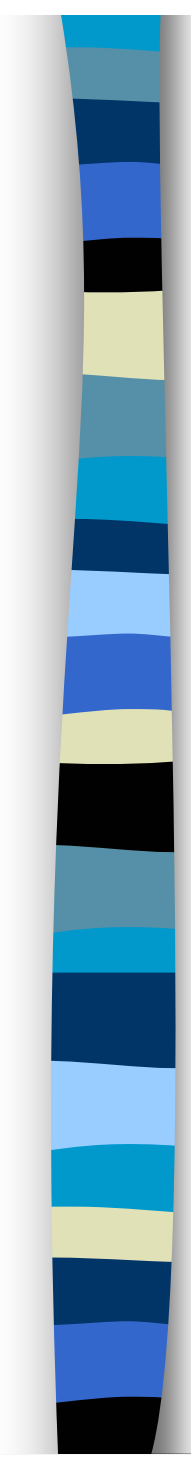
Article 5-d places an integration obligation on Parties:

“ Each party undertakes:...d. to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape”



The guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European continent approved at the Hanover European conference of ministers responsible for regional planning in September 2000 and becoming an appendix to:

the Recommendation Rec (2002)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent (30th January 2002) is presented as a coherent strategy for integrated development



Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment mentions Landscape as an element of the environmental report when a environmental impact assessment is required.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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