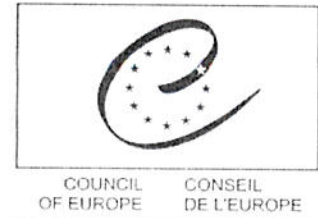


SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTORATE GENERAL IV – EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HERITAGE, YOUTH AND SPORT

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
COORDINATOR FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE
COORDINATOR FOR THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CAMPAIGN



Please quote :GBD/MDP

Strasbourg, 21 May 2009

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to the **Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention**, organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Government of Italy. The event will be held on 19-20 October 2010 in the *Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei 500*, Florence.

The high-level official Ceremony, on 20 October, is designed to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the European Landscape Convention for signature by Council of Europe member states and to provide an opportunity for further signatures et ratifications. Governments will therefore be invited to:

- sign and/or ratify the Convention on this occasion;
- present a statement concerning the Convention.

The European Landscape Convention came into force on 1 March 2004 with the aim of promoting landscape protection, management and planning, as well as European co-operation in this area. The Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of European landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It deals with landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. The Convention represents 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. By taking into account the importance and value of landscape, the Council of Europe seeks to protect the quality of life and well-being of all Europeans.

As at 21 May 2010, 31 Council of Europe member states had ratified the Convention: Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. A further seven states have signed it: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Malta, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland.

The preparatory day before the official Ceremony, on 19 October, the representatives of the Council of Europe member states and observers to the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention will be invited to speak on one of the four topics mentioned in the attached draft programme, presenting contributions (in English and/or French, 5 pages maximum) or posters. Written contributions should be emailed to the Council of Europe Secretariat (tania.braulio@coe.int) by 30 June 2010, while posters should be brought to the conference by the participants themselves.

The working languages of the Celebration will be English and French and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 41 20 00
+33 (0)3 88 41 23 98
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 37 51

E-mail: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int
<http://www.coe.int/>

Participants requiring a visa and insurance for the travel and stay are requested to carry out all necessary procedures themselves. Please carry your passport and this letter with you, as you will be required to show them when entering the Celebration venue.

May I draw your attention to the fact that there are no registration fees and that your travel and subsistence costs will not be covered by the Council of Europe.

Please email the attached registration form to the Council of Europe Secretariat informing us of your intention by 30 June 2010 (email: tania.braulio@coe.int).

Mrs Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS, Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division (tel. +33 3 88 41 23 98, fax +33 3 88 41 37 51, e-mail: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int) remains at your disposal should you require further information.

Yours faithfully,


Gabriella Battaini-Dracani

Encl.:

Draft Programme

Registration form

Letter sent to:

Permanent representations to the Council of Europe

Members of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP)

Participants to the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention

Members of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministries responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CSO-CEMAT)

Website of the European Landscape Convention:

<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>

<http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropennedupaysage>