



Landscape and driving forces – 8th Council of Europe meeting and workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (ELC)

Malmö/Alnarp, Sweden 8-9th October 2009-11-20

*Report by Birgitte Hellstrøm, representing:
EFLA's Landscape Policy group
NLA (Norwegian association of Landscape architects)*

Travel and accommodation costs is paid by NLA

Birgitte attended the following:

- Opening session and workshop 1 and 2 on Thursday 8th October
- Official dinner on Thursday 8th with ceremony of COE's landscape award
- Workshop 3 and 4 on Friday 9th

Remark:

Kathryn Moore was on short notice unable to attend the meeting and therefore the scheduled round table discussion on Friday 9th. There had not been time to find a replacement beforehand. Birgitte was also not able to attend the closing session and round table discussion because of another meeting in Brussel and ongoing flight that evening. After appointment with the IFLA president Diane Menzies, the danish landscape architect Jeppe Aagaard Andersen represented the European landscape architects on behalf of Kathrin Moore in the round table discussion.

From the programme: The aim of the Meeting of the Workshops

"In order to achieve strong, forward looking policies, strategies and effective measures for landscape governance, there is a need to explore and to understand the forces of landscape transformation. These issues are highly relevant to the implementation of the entire European Landscape Convention and especially to the implementation of articles 5d and 6A and 6C (section 1a i, ii).

Article 5d: "each party undertakes to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape";

Article 6: "Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them", "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: to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory; to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them".

The chosen theme of the Meeting, "Landscape and driving forces", provides a framework to jointly discuss current developments in the field of climate changes, globalisation of spaces, social transformations, shifts in production systems, consumption patterns as well as their meaning and impact on landscape in an international context. The resulting transformation of landscape lays out a new field of activity for designing adequate policies and measures. The structure of the meeting aims to combine and exchange insights, perspectives, practical and theoretical approaches from the European, national, regional and local levels."



Short comments to the seminar and speeches

- Overall a good programme with a wide range of professionals from all over Europe and representing different aspects of work related to the ELC
- The key note presentation was given by Shelly Egoz, senior lecturer from School of landscape architecture, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- Sadly, only a few presentations were giving practical examples of how to implement the ELC in daily work.
- However, the presentations from the landscape architects were very good, some of the best during the workshops (*and I try to be objective now...*), with good practical advice. These presentations were by
 - Marta Fajardo, Colombia (former chair of IFLA): “Landscape of Cities” (example from Bogota, urban/landscape planning and design and the role of political will to make rapid changes)
 - Kari Sørebo, Norway: “A sustainable landscape development – landscape in Norwegian municipality planning”(example showing how Norwegian national policies and legislation are used to insure the objectives of the ELC in local planning and development)
- The link between landscapes and the importance of ELC in urban planning and development was also pointed out in the welcome speech by Swedish Inger Linge, (Stockholm County Council) Vice Chair of the committee on Sustainable development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the COE
- Other good presentations with a more practical edge:
 - “Climate change and landscape”, by Markus Erhard, European Environment Agency
 - “Anticipating landscape policy; driving forces, by Bas Pedrolí, director of UNISCAPE
 - “Managing rapid changed”, by Dong Wei, University of Architecture, Nanjing, China
 - “Past practices and future energy – biofuel, traditions and biological diversity, by Jan Olof Helldin, Swedish Biodiversity centre
- Concerning European landscape Policy development:
 - “EU regional policy and local initiatives as driving forces”, by Burkhardt Kolbmüller, director of SALVE consulting office for European projects (www.salve-consult.de). The presentation focused on the lack of link between the EU and the results of the Interreg-projects, which very often include projects relating to new tools and strategies for better urban and rural development. The conclusions were that we need to:
 - Get more information about EU-programmes that support landscape projects
 - Have a common understanding about landscape
 - Evaluate and link the results of EU/Interreg-projects that deal with landscape (in order to use them to influence EU policies)
 - Create a better dialog between COE and EU institutions/Key actors regarding the values in the ELC
 - Use existing lobby organisations as UNISCAPE, CIVILSCAPE and RECEP-ENELC more efficient



My conclusions from this workshop compared to the ELC meeting in Strasbourg earlier this year (with reference to Kathryn's comments), are that there were a stronger focus on the relation between ELC and landscape architecture in the latest event. I think we can thank both Mrs Maguelonne Dèjant-Pons (Coincil of Europe, head of Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division) for that, and maybe also the fact that the workshop was held in Scandinavia where our profession has a strong role?

The workshop was filmed, and the movie can be downloaded here:

http://www.raa.se/cms/extern/en/about_us/the_european_landscape_convention/landscape_and_driving_forces/introduction.html

Next years important activities concerning the ELC in Europe:

15-17.04.2010	Workshop in Spain
20.10.2010	10th year anniversary of the ELC in Florence

Conclusion for further work for EFLA regarding the European Landscape Convention

- All landscape architects need to read up on the landscape convention and start talking about how our daily work really are dealing with the main objectives of the ELC! Our profession is one of the best to show the strong connection between the policy and objectives down to practical examples
- We need to see the work in Council of Europe regarding the ELC and spatial planning (CEMAT) more in relation
(http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/default_en.asp?expandable=2)
- We need to continue to keep in contact and give input to COE as well as establish contact with the MEP's of the EU.
- We need to be invited to and attend events where the ELC and related issues are discussed, and invite important policy actors to our own arenas (meetings/seminars/workshops)
- We need to use CILVILSCAPE as the lobbyorganisation it in fact is since EFLA already is a member. Therefore we need to make sure that landscape architecture, planning and design are more clear in CILVILSCAPE's work so that EFLA's objectives also are met! That again means we have to get more in contact and give them input.

20.11.2009,
Birgitte Hellstrøm



Attachment: Information from Council of Europe's web page and documents

The establishment of a COE information system on the ELC

On 23 September 2009, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe took note of the abridged report of the 2nd plenary session of the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP, Strasbourg, 12-13 May 2009). The report states that the CDPATEP adopted the Guiding Principles for a Council of Europe Database on the European Landscape Convention:

*The Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP),
(6)..... proposes that each party should contribute to the setting up of a database to appear on the website of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention;*

pointing out that the recommendation mentions that the database should be a "toolbox" providing technical and scientific assistance through the collection and exchange of landscape experience and research, as provided for in Article 8 of the European Landscape Convention concerning mutual assistance and exchange of information;

The purpose of the interactive information system is to aid the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and conform to the Convention's main articles:

Article 1: Definitions of the terms protection, management and planning;

– Article 6: Specific measures:

- C, Identification and assessment,
- D, Landscape quality objectives,
- E, Implementation,

– Article 8: Mutual assistance and exchange of information;

– Article 10: Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Main objectives:

- 1) put at the CDPATEP disposal a tool for the monitoring of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- 2) highlight actual effects of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- 3) maintaining and extending landscape co-operation networks, and fostering transnational cooperation;
- 4) provide useful information for research and action.

Particular objectives:

- affording administrations and the public access to sources of essential facts and experiences of landscape protection, management and planning;
- acting as an "observatory" in order to analyse and forecast the advantages which a rapidly changing society can derive from taking care of the landscape;
- making it easier to monitor the development of landscape policies "in keeping" with the European Landscape Convention;
- creating a landscape portal in order to disseminate information effectively, facilitate the organisation of interactive professional forums and data networks, and encourage people, especially youth, to take an interest in landscape;