

Circular Letter sent to the Permanent Representatives to the Council of Europe

Copy:

***Members of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention
and of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)***

Strasbourg, 8 October 2019

**European Landscape Convention – Organisation of the 7th Session of the Landscape Award
of the Council of Europe (2020-2021)**

Dear Ambassador,

The European Landscape Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of landscape: natural, rural, urban and peri-urban. It represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives. By taking into account the value of landscapes, with their natural and human components, the Council of Europe acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. Article 11 of the Convention establishes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

In order to organise the 7th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (2020-2021), we have the honour to transmit herewith the Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers on the Rules governing the Landscape Award (Appendix 1 to this letter). The Resolution considers that the Landscape Award is in line with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development: it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. It rewards exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The criteria for conferring the Award are appended to the Rules as they appear in the Resolution: sustainable territorial development, exemplary value, public participation, and awareness-raising.

The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by the end of the year preceding the year of Award (at the end of the year 2020, for this 7th Session). Due to postal delays at the end of the year, this deadline may be extended until 30 January 2021, at the latest.

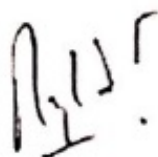
The Steering Committee for Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape having decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention, we would be grateful if you could send to the Secretariat of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe by this date the following elements, established for your country, on the basis of the proposals forwarded to you by the concerned Ministries:

- by e-mail, the completed Application form to: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int; susan.moller@coe.int;
- by post, a copy of the completed Application form, together with a CD-Rom, DVD or USB stick, containing all the additional material: Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Agora (A4-15V), Council of Europe, F - 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex.

In order to allow the analyses of the files, it is necessary that the Application form should be completed in English or in French.

According to Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe (Appendix 2 to this letter), "The exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention in the framework of the sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and acknowledged by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe are then part of the 'Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe'".
www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance

Yours sincerely,



Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons
*Executive Secretary of
the European Landscape Convention*

Appendices:

1. Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
2. Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

Encl.: Application form

Website of the European Landscape Convention:
www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

Appendix 1

Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Recalling that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) (hereinafter "the Convention"), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000, institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (hereinafter "the award");

Bearing in mind that this article provides that the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the award, adopt the relevant rules and grant the award;

Bearing in mind that the award's purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of parties to the Convention (hereinafter "the Parties");

Considering that the award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions;

Convinced that the award is intended to heighten civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them,

Resolves as follows:

- I. The rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are adopted as set out in the appendix to this resolution.
- II. The criteria for awarding the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are appended to these rules.
- III. The Parties are invited to translate into their national language(s) and promote the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. They are also requested to encourage media coverage of the award so as to raise public awareness of the importance of landscapes.

Appendix to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3

Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Article 1 – Aim

a. The award is an honorary distinction which acknowledges a policy or measures implemented by local or regional authorities or their groupings, or particularly remarkable contributions by non-governmental organisations, for sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. It takes the form of a diploma. Special mentions may also be awarded.

b. The award rewards a process of implementation of the Convention at national or transnational levels resulting in an effective, measurable achievement.

c. The award also helps to make people more aware of the importance of landscapes for human development, consolidation of the European identity and the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

Article 2 – Qualification of candidates

In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the following may be candidates for the award: local or regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. Non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning may also be candidates.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned article, transfrontier local or regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may be candidates, provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

Article 3 – Procedure

The procedure consists of three stages:

Stage 1 – Submission of candidatures

Each Party may submit one candidature to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe. The candidature may be the result of a competition held by each Party taking into account the award criteria appended to these rules.

The application file, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), shall include:

- a presentation of the candidate (not more than three pages long);
- the description of a completed project for the protection, management and/or planning of a landscape, which has proved lastingly effective and can serve as an example. Mention shall be made of the convention provision concerned.

The description shall take the form of a paper document, approximately 20 pages long, accompanied by a digital copy in PDF format on CD-Rom and posters. The file may also include a video presentation lasting approximately five minutes. The materials submitted must be copyright-free for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names.

Files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.

The award is in principle conferred every two years. The files presenting candidatures must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by no later than 31 December of the year preceding the year of award.

Stage 2 – Consideration of candidatures

An international jury set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ shall determine whether candidatures are admissible. The jury is composed of:

- one member of (each of) the committee(s) of experts responsible for monitoring the Convention, appointed by the committee(s) concerned;
- one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress;
- one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Secretary General on the proposal of the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;
- three eminent specialists on landscape, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The jury appoints a president.

The jury proposes the award winner from among the candidates admitted.

The proposals of the jury are taken by an absolute majority for the first two rounds of voting, and by a relative majority for the following round, based on the criteria set out in the appendix to these rules, stating the reasons for its choice. In case of equal votes, the vote of the president of the jury is decisive.

The reasons for the choice are explained.

The jury can propose to attribute one or more special mentions.

The committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ examine the proposals of the jury and forward their proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

Stage 3 – Granting and presentation of the award and the special mentions

In the light of the proposals of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹, the Committee of Ministers shall grant the award and any special mentions.

The award and the special mentions shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

Appendix to the rules

Criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Criterion 1 – Sustainable territorial development

The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public at least three years, when the candidatures were submitted.

¹ On 30 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers decided to attribute this competence to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP).

They must also:

- be part of a sustainable development policy and be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned;
- demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability;
- counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures;
- help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

Criterion 2 – Exemplary value

The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.

Criterion 3 – Public participation

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives.

The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways:

- through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example);
- through procedures for public participation and involvement in landscape policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities.

Criterion 4 – Awareness-raising

Article 6.A of the Convention provides that "each Party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them". Action along these lines taken as part of the completed project concerned will be assessed.

Appendix 2

Resolution CM/Res(2017)18 on the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 September 2017
at the 1295th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Bearing in mind that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) (hereinafter "the Convention"), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000, institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (hereinafter "the Award");

Considering Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe;

Underlining that the Award's purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of Parties to the Convention (hereinafter "the Parties");

Bearing in mind that the Award is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions;

Bearing in mind that the Award is intended to enhance civil society's awareness of the landscapes' values, roles and transformations;

Considering the importance of gathering the exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention in the framework of the sessions of this Landscape Award,

Resolves that:

- I. The exemplary achievements presented by the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention in the framework of the sessions of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and acknowledged by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe are part of the "Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe";^[1]
- II. The Parties are invited to encourage media coverage of the Council of Europe Landscape Award Alliance to raise public awareness of the importance of landscape.

[1] www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award-alliance