

Official representation of ECTP to the Council of Europe and other institutions

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I-CDCPP and Conference on European Landscape Convention

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Background:

The CDCPP covers a significant part of the issues being addressed in the policies of regional planning. Culture, heritage and landscape are strong and key issues of social cohesion and territorial integration. They are the foundation of respect for cultural diversity and local identity shared in order to strengthen a more integrating European continent, respectful of diversity and engine for better quality of living spaces.

Results and Actions:

Following the Namur declaration (24th April 2015) stating the necessity of drafting a European Cultural Heritage strategy for the 21st century, an expert group worked one year (four sessions) to achieve the goal: having a strategy to be approved during the plenary session of the CDCPP, in June 2016, in order to be submitted to the approval of the Committee of ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. This was done on the 15th June 2016. As ECTP representatives, I was present in all the meetings. I've brought two main ideas:

- our territories (regions) are the ground on which the strategy will have to be implemented, and,
- every planning action is a cultural action.

The Strategy is based on three components.

- 1) The "social" component" harnesses the assets of heritage in order to promote diversity, the empowerment of heritage communities and participatory governance.
- 2) The "economic and territorial development" component seeks to strengthen the contribution of heritage to sustainable development, based on local resources, tourism and employment.

3) The “knowledge and education” component focuses, through heritage, on education, research and life-long training issues.

The second important point to be discussed was the consideration of the CDCPP work by the Committee of Ministers in which the CM asked the CDCPP to give its comments on its possible involvement in the eventual future CEMAT work. Clearly a trap. Thanks to the French presidency, I could have several times the floor to encourage the delegations to vote positively for their willingness of maintaining the CEMAT work and their commitment to CDCPP involvement in this work.

I recalled the Guidelines for public participation in spatial planning and assessment of the contribution of CEMAT to the goals of the Council of Europe. These Guidelines include:

- democratic participation and good territorial governance in spatial planning policies,
- territorial impacts of demography, migration, energy, transport, environment, landscape policies throughout the European continent;
- evaluation and monitoring of territorial processes;
- distribution of and access to general interest services as a means of balanced territorial development and the development of sustainable communities throughout the European continent;
- capacity-building in designing and implementing spatial planning policies through the exchange of know-how and the dissemination of good practice;
- cross-border and transnational dimension of spatial planning policies;
- spatial planning as a tool for improving the resilience of regions, orienting the investments in order to fasten recovery from the financial and economic crisis, anticipating trends and jointly preparing the European territory for future challenges.

II- CDDG and CEMAT

Background:

As defined by the Council of Europe: the Conference of Ministers, in charge of Spatial / Regional Planning (CEMAT), brings together representatives of the 47 Council of Europe member states in pursuit of a shared objective: the promotion of the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy for a sustainable spatial development of the European continent.

The CEMAT represents the only pan-European framework for cooperation on spatial planning and functions as a platform for discussion and exchange of best practices between Council of Europe Member States on spatial development policies.

Updated situation:

After having been repeatedly reshaped, the CEMAT, thanks to the will of the Greek Presidency and several major countries, continued its work as part of the Division of Good Governance which contributes to the implementation of intergovernmental cooperation as well as assistance and collaboration programs with Member States on democratic governance. The main committee of this division is the CDDG: European Committee on Democracy and Governance, European Committee on Democracy and Governance.

CDDG is a committee created in 2014, and is developing new working methods and is active in the fields which are on the agenda and present an interest for member states. For 2014-2015, its activities are concentrated on the following issues: territorial reforms, citizens' democratic participation in public life, the modernization of public administration, the dialogue and relations between tiers of government, public finances and transfrontier cooperation.

Results and actions:

The active participation of ECTP in the work under the Greek presidency helped to increase very significantly the visibility of ECTP even within the Council of Europe itself.

Thanks to the extensive work undertaken as part of the CEMAT, the Direction for Democracy through the Good Governance Division welcomed favorably the ECTP proposition to become observer member of the CDDG, European Committee on Democracy and Governance.

This strategic Committee is the most important body of the Directorate of Democracy of the Council of Europe. We still need to apply and receive approval by all member states of the Committee. Very few observer members get access to this status as the Council of Europe intends to be in the future, very selective on the entry of NGOs in the committees.

We agreed with the Secretariat to submit the candidacy of ECTP during the next session with a presentation of our Charter on Participatory Democracy in plenary session. This is planned for the 14th and 15th of November 2016.

III- Landscape Convention

Two events:

- I was asked to be an expert member of a working group on Landscape and Democracy. Next meeting 18th-19th October 2016 in Paris
- I was asked to monitor a COE publication on Landscape and Spatial Planning. I got the request last week, so it is difficult for me to say more except that I will have to organize a call for papers mainly in the framework of ECTP, for sure. If some of you are already interested, please let me know.

IV- EU reflexion group on Cultural Heritage

I attended the last meeting of the EU Heritage RG in Den Hague the 9th and 10th May 2016. Among others we discussed two issues:

- The organization of the Heritage Year 2018. The slogan of which is 'sharing heritage'. The decision was taken by the EU parliament and the EU commission on the 30th of August 2016. You will already find information on the EU Commission website devoted to it.
- The possibility of giving more visibility to cultural heritage issues in the EU spatial planning policies. We had a presentation of the Pact of Amsterdam (formerly adopted by the EU ministers responsible for urban policy the 30th of the same month). Only few sentences on Cultural Heritage but still something.
- The application for EU ESPON targeted analysis for statistics on the social and economic impact of Europe's physical cultural heritage. I was committed to attend the ESPON seminar the 16th and 17th June 2016 in Amsterdam with the support of the Dutch presidency. The decision was taken to submit an application as formulated above in the course of August. ECTP was proposed and accepted as one of the stakeholders of the application (the others are all central government offices for heritage or culture. We are waiting for the result but already have planned a meeting which will be held in Amsterdam the 26th of October.

Other actions:

- Berlin European Congress "European cities and their heritage" on 8th and 9th December 2016 in the framework of the preparation of the heritage year 2018 led by Germany.
- Implementation of the Charter on Participatory Democracy: I want to launch the first Participatory Democracy in spatial planning processes award for 2018 at the same time as the Planning award. I will be grateful if I could obtain a "green light" to start thinking the way the call for submission could be organized. Of course, I already call my active friends of the working group to join me.
- I wanted to propose to the COE a 'voluntary contribution' on the revision of the COE-CEMAT glossary. I propose to establish a working group on the basis of a call for interest as I did for the Charter of Participatory Democracy.

Versailles, October 6th, 2016

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Official representative to the Council of Europe

CDCPP, CEMAT, Conference of Landscape Convention