
Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 October 2019
at the 1357th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.*b* of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) have declared themselves “[c]oncerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment”, and that they have noted that “the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation” (preamble of the convention);

Recalling that the convention acknowledges that “the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas”;

Having regard to its Article 5, according to which each Party undertakes: “to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity”; “to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6”; “to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies ...”; and “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”;

Recalling that Article 6.E of the convention states that “each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape”;

Considering that such means of intervention can help to promote quality agriculture and forestry, address the challenges of climate change, and arrest the depopulation of rural territories;

Referring to the provisions of Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention,

Recommends that the governments of the States Parties to the convention call on national, regional or local authorities to take into consideration the following measures according to their competence in these areas:

1. adopt, at the national, regional and local level, strategic guidelines to provide a reference framework for public policies designed to implement the European Landscape Convention in rural territories;

2. promote integrated and participatory approaches aimed to implement such policies in an effective manner;
3. put in place appropriate financial tools promoting quality achievements for the host territories and their population;
4. integrate the landscape dimension into local urban planning documents of small towns, villages and their surroundings;
5. support healthy and diversified forms of agriculture and forestry, respectful of natural resources (water, air, soil, biodiversity) as well as the cultural heritage of territories; encourage small-scale and family farming;
6. assign an adequate percentage of the funds allocated to agricultural and forestry support policies for the protection, management and planning of the landscape;
7. identify local potential for reducing energy consumption and diversifying the production of alternative energies;
8. encourage transfrontier co-operation to promote a quality rural landscape across borders;
9. identify pilot territories representative of sustainable and harmonious local development, based on a desire to promote quality landscapes.