

**RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE "CULTURAL LANDSCAPES" NATIONAL WORKSHOP**

**Organised within the European Heritage Days 2003,
with national topic for Bulgaria - "Cultural Landscapes"**

Rousse, 27-28 September 2003

The participants in the national "Cultural Landscapes" workshop: experts and representatives of governmental, regional and local authorities, non-profit organisations, media, etc.:

- Acknowledging the essential importance of landscape to culture, environment, the social and economic development, as defined by the European Convention on Landscape (Florence 2000), still not ratified by Bulgaria;
- Considering the cultural landscape as a specific kind of landscape and type of cultural and historic heritage - a harmonious synthesis of human activity and nature, illustration of social evolution and the spiritual connection of humankind to nature; in the light of the Convention for Protection of the Global Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972), ratified by Bulgaria;
- Accepting the importance of cultural landscape as a resource for improvement of life quality and sustainable development, especially through cultural and environmental tourism;
- Taking into account the exceptional diversity and identity of Bulgarian landscape and its characteristic conjunction of cultural and natural heritage - the most significant and competitive feature of the product offered by Bulgaria's tourism sector;
- Considering the actual threat of degradation of Bulgarian landscape due to lack of adequate instruments for its protection, management and planning,

RECOMMEND:

1. The Parliament of Bulgaria should assume as a priority the solution of Bulgaria's landscape problems, doing the following to the purpose:
 - ratify the European Convention on Landscape and recognise landscape in legislative form as an essential element of environment with key importance to sustainable development;
 - ensure the protection and management of cultural landscape through special texts in the Cultural Monuments Act and in relation to all other legislation with bearing on landscape.
2. The state should adopt a strategy for protection and management of landscape, integrating it in regional development, cultural, environmental, agriculture and forestry, social, educational and economic policies, seeking the active partnership of government authorities, public organisations and the private sector.
3. Special attention should be paid to the sustainable utilisation of cultural landscapes for cultural and environmental tourism, by providing the opportunity for self-financing of activities concerning the preservation and development, as well as the efficient utilisation of the EU pre-accession instruments.
4. Favourable conditions should be created and action taken to increase the public awareness of the importance of landscape - through various forms of education, qualification and upbringing, accentuating on children and youngsters.
5. A debate should be carried out as soon as possible in the National Committee for Sustainable Development on the preservation and sustainable development of Bulgarian landscape as a non-recyclable source of social and economic welfare.

Russe, 28 September 2003