



IFLA EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Bold and beautiful landscapes for the next generation Europe

**IFLA Europe Resolution on Bold and Beautiful Landscapes
Helsinki, Finland, October 2022**

While much of the world's activity froze during lockdowns and shutdowns, the planet continued to get dangerously hotter. There is no more urgent need for accelerated change than when it comes to the future of our fragile planet. Change is needed globally as well as on the Pan-European level. The European Green Deal is a blueprint to help make this kind of transformation. At the heart of it is a mission to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. We will not get there with the status quo – it must go faster and in a better way. The European Union has kickstarted a European renovation wave to encourage a circular and sustainable economy. But all this is not just an environmental or economic project: it is a new cultural project for Europe - a project that demands boldness – a project that will change our landscapes. Every movement and epoch have their own look and feel and we need to give this systemic change its own distinct aesthetic – to integrate landscape quality with sustainability.

The New European Bauhaus initiative connects the European Green Deal to our daily lives and living spaces. It calls on all Europeans to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is just and beautiful for the planet and healthy lives.

We, the undersigned, as representatives of the 34 National Associations of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, having considered boldness and beauty as a theme for our General Assembly, during the meeting in Helsinki, Finland from the 13th - 16th October 2022, make the following statements:

We believe

Landscape Architects can play a significant and leading role in the development and management of the 21st century landscape and the needed transitions. The practice of Landscape Architecture shapes how we view our environment and helps to make society's relationship with nature more perceptible and relevant.

One of the aims of design has always been to increase well-being. A central paradigm in 20th century was that form follows function. As the environment and its issues become more and more complex, the holistic and multi-disciplinary approach that Landscape Architects have, renders the profession ideal to provide a range of diverse skills and requirements. The focus is increasingly shifting therefore from simply shaping the end result to the realisation of more sustainable, resilient and cost-effective solutions. The paradigm definitely has to be enriched with "function follows form and process". Functionality follows landscape and nature.

Landscape Architects, through their training and their experience in planning, design, science, and management provide the essential requisite skills for this. Landscape architects can guide bold transformations towards mutual wellbeing of people and nature. In addition, they have the capacity to enhance the beauty of nature in both urban and rural environments.

Boldness is needed. In raising the profile of our common new cultural project, taking on a socially significant expert role by designers requires courage and responsibility. The same attitude is asked of commissioners and politicians.

Aesthetics and ethics are indivisible cornerstones of landscape architecture. New elements are introduced into landscapes for dealing with climate change (storm water management features, installations for renewable energies like wind power, photovoltaics, urban agriculture, and much more) The skill of our profession to integrate beauty in such projects undoubtedly helps with acceptance whilst bringing cultural value to these.

By designing “boldness and beauty” in landscapes

- **accessible landscapes** become available for everybody to explore and enjoy - access to high quality landscapes is recognised as contributing to good health, sustainable productivity, and social equality;
- **connective landscapes** enhance our understanding that we are here all together and dependent on the wellbeing of each other. The success of other species and people around you are the only recipe for prosperity. Connecting green corridors work for people and nature;
- **healthy landscapes** that are built upon the enhancement of natural systems and sustainable farming, show an abundant and diverse beauty, are the only carbon responsible, sustainable, biodiverse, outcomes we can all afford to support.

We urge

the European Commission, New European Bauhaus Collective, European Union, European Parliament, EU DG Environment, EU DG Agri, IUCN, WWF, UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, Council of Europe, IFLA Europe Member states and other actors in the environment:

to show boldness in the movement to facilitate and steer the transformation of our societies along the values of sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion, which ought to be seen as inseparable.

to promote collaboration between all actors and stakeholders to prioritise landscape in their planning and design processes and decision making.

to facilitate co-creation spaces where artists, architects, urbanists, landscape architects, planners and engineers can work together to make the green cultural transition happen.

piloting of nature-based solutions as preferred solutions for climate and environmental problems and all planning tasks. By developing courageous new landscapes, we can create platforms for both people and

other species to flourish together. These enable the green transition towards climate neutrality, as aimed at in the EU Green Deal.

system thinking as a way to improve understanding about natural systems and how our own wellbeing is connected to the health of nature.

an open mind-set to define how to combat the degradation of ecosystems, as proposed in the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and how this can be realised in different kinds of urban and rural landscapes.

using a comprehensive approach to enable inclusive planning, design and management processes at all scales and levels in the built and natural environment. Multidisciplinarity is the key to achieving more resilient, sustainable, beautiful, and inclusive landscapes. Landscape architectural designs are a appropriate tool for convincing decision-makers and to help the public accept new solutions and elements in the environment. That is the cultural dimension of the Green Deal as embodied in the EU New European Bauhaus initiative which we as IFLA Europe passionately support.

Following other international and European texts on the matter such as:

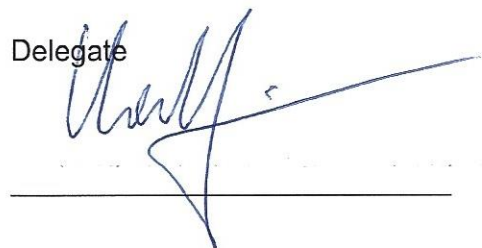
- UN Resolution on human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (2022)
- The New European Bauhaus (2020)
- The EU Climate Law (2020)
- The EU Green Deal (2019)
- The Davos Declaration (2018)
- *UN Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment* (2018)
- 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Paris, 2015)
- European Union framework for climate and energy 2020 – 2030 (EU 2014)
- Environmental action programme 2020 (European Union, 2013)
- Convention on the Promotion and Diversity of Cultural Expressions (UNESCO, 2005)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2003)
- The European Landscape Convention (CoE, Florence, 2000)
- The Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development (UNESCO, Stockholm, 1998)
- Bern Convention, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (CoE 1979)
- The Recommendation on participation by the people at large in cultural life and their contribution to it (UNESCO, Nairobi, 1976)
- The World Heritage Convention (Paris, 1972), whose Operative Guidelines first expressed the notion of Cultural Landscapes
- The European Social Charter (CoE, 1961)

15th October 2022

AUSTRIA (OGLA)

Karl GRIMM

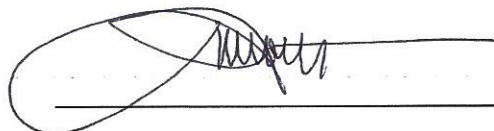
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BELGIUM (ABAJP/BVTL)

Ann VOETS

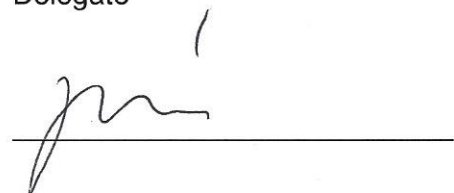
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CZECH REPUBLIC (CAKA)

Eva JENIKOVA

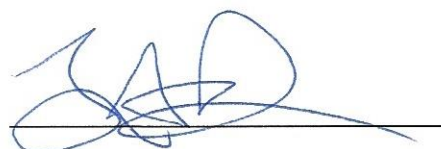
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DENMARK (DL)

Jeremy DENNIS

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Teele NIGOLA

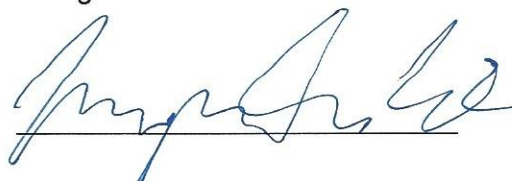
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FINLAND (MARK)

Varpu MIKOLA

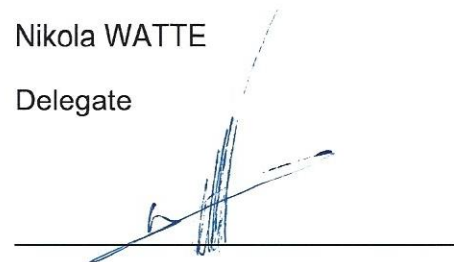
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Nikola WATTE

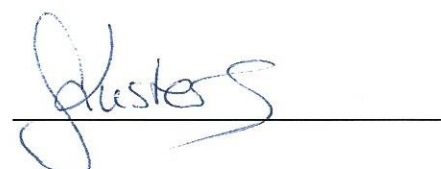
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GERMANY (BAK)

Gwendolyn KUSTERS

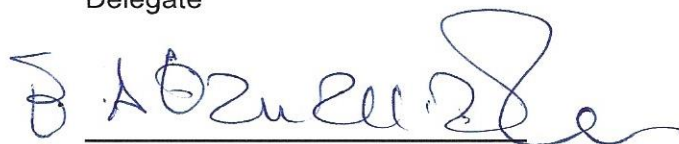
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Lena ATHANASIADOU

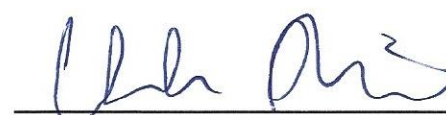
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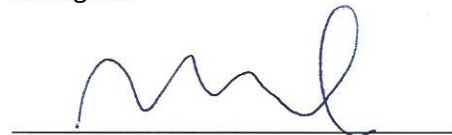


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SPAIN (AEP)

Manuel HERNANDEZ SANCHEZ

Delegate

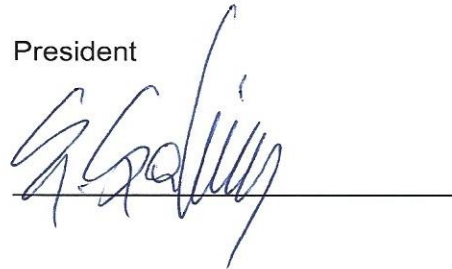


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TURKEY (CTLA)

Sukran SAHIN

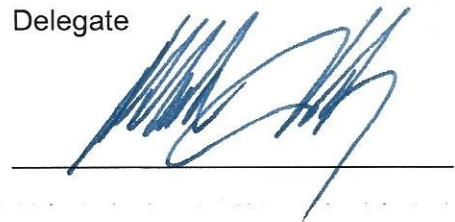
President



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Attila TOTH

Delegate



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SWEDEN (SA)

Linus FREDRIKSSON

Delegate

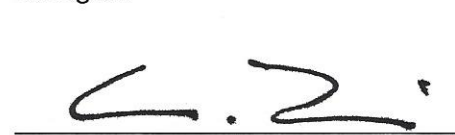


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SWITZERLAND (BSLA/FSAP)

Christian TSCHUMI

Delegate



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UNITED KINGDOM (LI)

Noel FARRER

Delegate



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