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Rafael Mata CONVERSES WITH...

Margarita Ortega ABOUT...

STRATEGIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION IN SPAIN

Professor of Regional Geographical Analysis of the Autonomous University of Madrid.

Specialist in landscape and regional planning issues, he has published more than 48 books and numerous articles relating to regional planning, landscape and the protection and management of natural and rural spaces.

He is co-director and author of the *Atlas de los Paisajes de España* (Ministry for the Environment, 2003). Some of his more important works include: *Los paisajes de Madrid: Naturaleza y medio rural* (1999) which received the Urban Planning Prize of the Community of Madrid in 2000, *Los paisajes españoles y su conservación* (2001), *Una visión histórica de la investigación sobre los espacios naturales protegidos en España: del interés por las bellezas naturales a las redes territoriales de protección* (2002), *Paisajes españoles. Cuestiones sobre su conocimiento, caracterización e identificación* (2002), *Paisajes rurales españoles: diversidad, valores y protección* (2003), *Agricultura, paisaje y gestión del territorio* (2004) and *El paisaje, patrimonio y recurso para el desarrollo territorial sostenible. Conocimiento y acción pública* (2008). In 1987, he received the National Agricultural Publications Prize from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture.

He has taken part in projects to draw up a number of different Regional Development Plans at a sub-regional level in Spain (Basque Country, Andalusia, Extremadura, Canary Islands and Balearic Islands) and has been director of the Landscape Guidelines of several areas of the Region of Murcia.

He is the promoter and creator of the manifesto *Por una nueva cultura del territorio*, which represented a vital contribution to the control of urban growth and a relevant contribution in the area of regional management and planning.

Urban Architect and Graduate in Regional Planning .

In recent years, she has been Advisory Member of the Sustainable Development of the Rural Milieu Department of the Ministry for the Environment, Rural and Marine Milieu, responsible for regional issues and landscape and for relations with the Autonomous Communities in these areas. During this period, she has taken part in the drafting and monitoring of the European Regional Agenda, in the ESPON programme and has been member of the Regional Development and Urban Affairs Subcommittee (TCUM) of the EU.

Throughout her career as a civil servant, she has participated in a large number of the workgroups of international organisations. Within the framework of the European Union she was representative on the Spatial Development Committee and took part in the drawing up of the European Regional Strategy and in the operating programmes of the Interreg II initiatives of transnational corporation in regional planning in the cooperation areas of Southeast Europe, Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Space. In the Council of Europe she was member of the Committee of Senior Officials of the CEMAT (European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Regional Planning) taking part in the drawing up of the guiding Principles for the Sustainable Regional Development of the European continent and in the Rural Heritage Observation Guide.

She has also been member of the Jury for the National Urban Development Prizes and a member of the editorial committee of the magazine *Ciudad y Territorio. Estudios Territoriales* and the magazine *Ambienta*.

The ambiguous and polysemic nature of the word landscape has contributed to a situation whereby, over the last decades, this topic has been subject to a multiple sector approach in Spain. Of all of these, the treatment of landscape as a naturalistic or environmental resource is the most widely accepted approach from the academic or professional viewpoint, and the one applied in most cases, mainly in the form of “accompanying” studies for works of a regional nature.

The body of Spanish legislation has also taken landscape into consideration in a large number of laws, mainly of an environmental character (protection of nature, mountains, water, etc.) and also more recently in land use, regional planning and urban development policies. (Zoido, 2010)

There is no doubt that following the approval, at the request of the Council of Europe, of the European Landscape Agreement (Florence, October 2000) and the surge of subsequent ratifications (more than 30 countries have signed and ratified the ELA to date), landscape has begun to merit closer attention in Europe as a standalone policy.

The explicit definition of the landscape concept and of the landscape policies developed by the ELA, leaves no doubt as to the importance of its regional, social and environmental significance. This pan-European agreement represents therefore a great effort of scientific and political consensus for the establishment on our continent of a common policy in landscape matters, with its own specific weight.

Spain was among the 16 countries that signed the agreement initially and it may be said that this country played an important active role at a scientific and institutional level in its definition and in its first “deployments”.

Against this background and following the initial promotion by the Spanish state, many Autonomous Communities have been encouraged to develop their “own” landscape policies, linked expressly to the ELA. In addition to the current legislation in Valencia, Galicia and Catalonia, there are today a number of other Communities with ongoing legislative processes, in addition to multiple activities and initiatives developed in the areas of knowledge and training.

We are accompanied in this Dialogue by two of the most highly reputed landscape experts in our country, who will help us take stock of the degree of application of the postulates of the ELA in Spain and to respond to some of the questions currently in the air:

- What is the status of the landscape policies being applied in Spain?
- Is the current economic crisis an impediment for landscape policies?
- Has the Spanish position as an initial promoter of the ELA weakened since the agreement came into effect 10 years ago?
- What are the main obstacles facing landscape policies in Spain? And what are the main challenges?
- Can a landscape policy really help to develop more sustainable and participative regional planning processes?
- Are landscape guidelines beginning to be included in regional and urban planning as proclaimed by the ELA?
- Is the effective inclusion of landscape in “promoting” policies of a second nature still, in your opinion, a long way off?
- Are our citizens prepared to familiarise themselves with the precepts of the ELA?

LANDSCAPE
DIALOGUE
JANUARY 2011

THURSDAY 20 | 7 PM
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Convenio Europeo del Paisaje
www.mma.es/portal/secciones/desarrollo_territorial/paisaje_dt/convenio_paisaje/

Revista Naturopa
www.coe.int/naturopa

Manifiesto por una nueva cultura del territorio
nuevaculturadelterritorio.wordpress.com

Colegio de Geógrafos
www.geografos.org

AGE - Asociación de Geógrafos de España
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