



FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

**Pan-European Follow-Up of the FOREST EUROPE
Ministerial Conference, Oslo June 2011**

**Adopted at the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting,
14–15 February 2012, Madrid, Spain**

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1. Introduction

At the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in Oslo, Norway, 14-16 June 2011, the ministers responsible for forests in Europe adopted two Oslo decisions: *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020* and *Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe* (Annex 1). This work programme is elaborated with the aim to put the Oslo ministerial decisions into action. It is developed to advance the successful realisation of the shared vision for forests in Europe and the related goals and 2020 targets for European forests, as well as to support the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe as mandated.

The work programme addresses the prioritised joint European actions identified in *paragraph 24 in the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*. The work programme activities should feed into the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on preparing a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. The activities of the Liaison Unit regarding servicing the INC should be also seen as an integrated part of the work programme of FOREST EUROPE, according to the Oslo decisions.

The work programme embraces activities with added value at the pan-European level. It specifies collaborative actions that are supplementary to national follow up activities. The work is to be guided by the mission and tasks for FOREST EUROPE as specified in the *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraphs 20 and 21 (See annex).

The programme elements and activities are to be carried out in cooperation with partners and other organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the European Forest Institute and should strengthen cooperation with relevant regional bodies and processes in Europe and elsewhere. All actions should further enhance the visibility of forests and the forest sectors multiple contributions to global challenges and societal needs.

The tradition of transparency and flexibility with regard to developing, implementing and reporting on the work programme should be continued - including the ability to accommodate emerging issues.

2. FOREST EUROPE Commitments

Since 1990, nineteen resolutions have been adopted at five Ministerial Conferences. In Figure 1, an overview of these FOREST EUROPE commitments is presented in relation to the three pillars of Sustainable Forest Management.

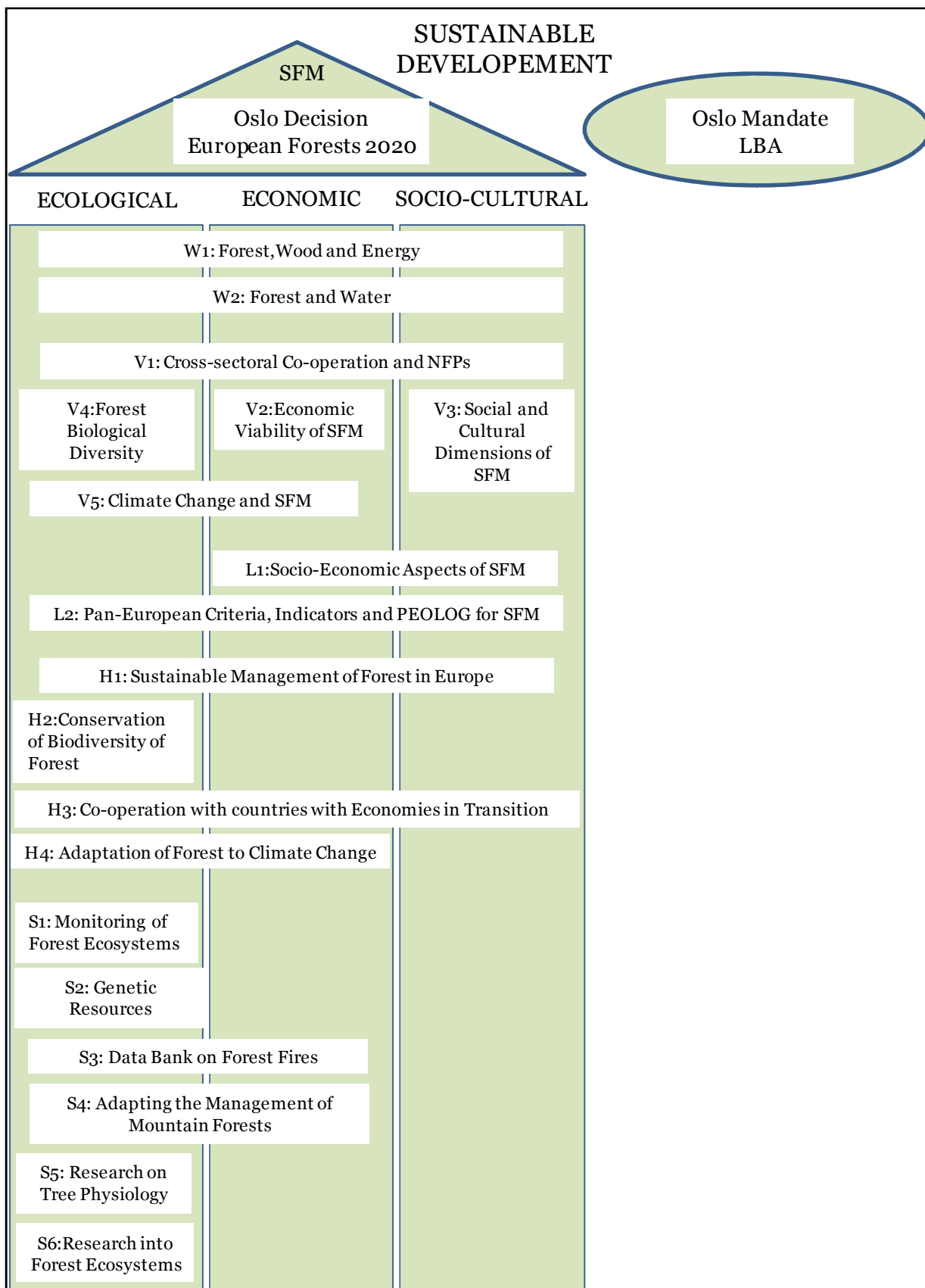


Figure 1. Resolutions adopted at five Ministerial Conferences, 1990–2011 (W: Warsaw 2007; V: Vienna 2003; L: Lisbon 1998; H: Helsinki 1993; S: Strasbourg 1990), and their relation to the three pillars of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Please note that the titles of the Resolutions are short titles.

Through the FOREST EUROPE commitments, the concept of Sustainable Forest Management has been defined and continuously developed at the pan-European level. The commitments have also served as a framework for implementing Sustainable Forest Management in the European countries.

The FOREST EUROPE Work Programme gives prominence to issues highlighted by the ministers at the Oslo Conference (2011). The pan-European aspects of these commitments are implemented in co-operation between the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit and organisations and institutions operating as international coordinators.

3. Pan-European actions in follow-up to Oslo Ministerial Conference

Both *Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe* and *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraph 24 a-d, present the joint European actions which the ministers decided to address. Concrete actions and inter-linkages for the joint European actions are described in the following sections.

1. Further development of Sustainable Forest Management and its tools

In the *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraph 24 a, the ministers decided on:

Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools

Responding to increasing attention and new scientific knowledge on the multiple roles that forests and sustainable forest management play in tackling global challenges, FOREST EUROPE will step up efforts and further consolidate the pan-European policies and tools for sustainable forest management, taking into account biodiversity and climate change commitments, emerging threats to and pressure on forest resources as well as the role of forest owners.

This action is an overarching element interlinked with the other actions in the work programme. It should build on and respond to the other actions, and also contribute to better coordination of policies and tools on forests and forest management at pan-European, European Union and national levels, including the development of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.

To facilitate coordination and consolidation of forest policies, the further development of Sustainable Forest Management and its tools should:

- Feed into the work by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, e.g. on terms and definitions as well as reporting requirements.
- Facilitate further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting, including measurement of achievements on Goals and 2020 Targets for European forests.
- Identify differences and resemblances between concepts: Sustainable Forest Management; sustainable use; sustainable management.
- Address new commitments and current challenges in a proactive and strategic way, in order to attain the full potential of forests and seize emerging opportunities and new knowledge, including on:
 - Biodiversity: New commitments in CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), indicator developments, evaluation, restoration, new demands on protected areas, safeguards concept, enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in productive forests.
 - Climate change: Adaptation needs and mitigation role of forests, land use, land degradation, desertification, bioenergy, and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) commitments.
 - Green economy: New commitments and attention, Rio +20.
 - Increasing demand for timber both for energy and timber products from sustainably managed forests.

- Increasing demands for verification of sustainability/legality.
- New demands on socio-cultural aspects of forests, e.g. human health, workers' rights, etc. and economic aspects like non-wood forest products.
- Further develop elements on Sustainable Forest Management policy.
- Build on former FOREST EUROPE work, e.g. the Working Group on "Sustainability Criteria" for Forest Biomass Production, including Bioenergy¹, as well as other ongoing efforts.
- Be based on experiences in the preparation of the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report (quantitative and qualitative indicators) and respond to the possible common data collection with FAOs FRA 2015 for quantitative indicators.

The expected outcomes of this action are the consolidation of pan-European policies for Sustainable Forest Management, a further improvement of the pan-European Sustainable Forest Management guidelines and an updated and focussed set of pan-European indicators, including the related background information (Vienna 2002), and possibly other tools for Sustainable Forest Management.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame
State of art		
Analysis of the state of art of the implementation of former decisions on Sustainable Forest Management in monitoring and policy.	EFI, Liaison Unit Madrid	2012 /2013
Expert group to propose improvements in tools for Sustainable Forest Management		
A group of experts should explore improvements in Sustainable Forest Management guidelines and other existing tools, to better comprise new knowledge and emerging issues. The work should build on former and on-going work (e.g. the working group on sustainability criteria and the EFI project on implementation of criteria and indicators) and take into account lessons learned and exchange of experiences as the preparation of the State of Europe's Forests 2011.	Germany, Finland, Austria, EFI, UNECE/FAO, FAO, USSE, Liaison Unit Madrid	2012/2013
A roundtable (before the ELM 2014) should be called to explore proposals for improvements in Sustainable Forest Management guidelines and other tools, to be brought to the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) dedicated to consolidated pan-European policies and tools, including National Forest Programmes or equivalent for Sustainable Forest Management.	EFI, UNECE/FAO, FAO	2014 (first half)

2. Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting

In the *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraph 24 b, the ministers decided on:

Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting

Stressing the importance of adequate, accessible and evidence-based forest information at all levels of policy making, and for informing the broader public, FOREST EUROPE will further improve the basis for forest monitoring and harmonised reporting systems to serve emerging needs, including for verification of legality and sustainability.

¹ Report from working group with recommendations for further development of FOREST EUROPE policies and tools is available on:
http://foresteurope.org/filestore/foresteurope/Meetings/2009/3rd_SustCrit_Uppsala_11-12_June_2009/MCPFEWG sustainabilitycriteriaFinalreport.pdf

A common data collection with FAO's global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2015 is being explored to enhance improvement of quality and harmonisation in data collection and reporting. Regularity and quality in data collection will ensure consistent time series for the pan-European quantitative indicators, while avoiding separate pan-European reporting on very similar issues as the global FRA. For streamlining of reporting and avoiding duplication of work, data on quantitative indicators collected jointly with FAO's global forest resource assessments every five years will be used for the preparation of future State of Europe's forests reports, while data on the qualitative indicators will be collected when a report is being prepared. And the reporting should be based on pre-experiences, like the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report.

In the longer term, the improved pan-European forest monitoring and reporting should reflect the amendments in Sustainable Forest Management and its tools, including valuation of ecosystem services, serve verification of sustainability/legality, and facilitate evaluation of achievements on goals and 2020 targets for European forests.

The expected outcomes of this action are reduced reporting burdens for countries through common reporting on the pan-European quantitative indicators and FAO's global resource assessment, and future improvements of consistency and comprehensiveness in reporting on Europe's forests and on the goals and 2020 targets for European forests.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame
Reporting on goals and 2020 targets, and the state of Europe's forests		
Carry out joint data collection with FAO's FRA	FAO, UNECE/FAO, Liaison Unit Madrid	On going
Develop monitoring and reporting on the achievements on goals and 2020 targets, possibly integrated with reporting on the state of Europe's forests	EFI, FAO, UNECE/FAO, Liaison Unit Madrid	2013-2014
The next reporting on the State of Europe's Forests would reflect the improvements in policies and their implementation for Sustainable Forest Management and any changes in its assessing tools	tbd	2015 / next MC
Reporting on national and pan-European achievements on goals and 2020 targets for European forests	tbd	2020

3. Strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade

In the *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraph 24 c, the ministers decided on:

Strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade

Responding to the severe consequences of illegal logging and related trade and to the challenges posed by global deforestation, and in order to complement and underpin efforts by the European Union and the ENA/FLEG process against illegal logging and related trade, FOREST EUROPE will further strengthen efforts for good governance and forest law enforcement, inter alia by cooperating to ensure that timber traded within or into FOREST EUROPE signatories derives from legally harvested forests, and by facilitating the exchange of lessons learned.

Building on former initiatives, FOREST EUROPE will seek ways to strengthen forest governance and ensure that timber traded within or into FOREST EUROPE signatories derives from legally harvested forests. FOREST EUROPE will work together with the European Commission, Regional Environmental Centre (REC) and others to facilitate exchange of lessons learned, and identify future priority areas for enforcement at national and pan-European levels.

The expected outcomes of this action are generating more attention to illegal logging and its effects at national and pan-European levels, and identifying effective measures to assess and eliminate illegal logging and related trade.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame	Related Goals and Targets
Workshop on governance and forest law enforcement			
A workshop should be convened to analyze and identify the elements of illegal logging and related trade in the pan-European region and to facilitate exchange of experiences on national and pan-European actions related to governance and forest law enforcement. The conclusions will help identify effective measures and future priorities to eliminate illegal logging and related trade in Europe, and their integration in National Forest Programmes or equivalent and legislation, where appropriate	REC, EFI, EC, Liaison Unit, IUFRO	2012	GVI and GVIII / TI, TVII and TIX

4. Valuation of forest ecosystem services

In the *Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020*, paragraph 24 d, the ministers decided on:

Valuation of forest ecosystem services

Stressing the importance of the full range of forest goods and services, FOREST EUROPE will develop a common approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services and promote its use, with the aim of raising awareness of the contributions to societies of multiple forest functions, to serve informed decision making and to assess achievements against the 2020 targets.

Noting the extent and variety of forest goods and services, FOREST EUROPE will develop a common approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services. The activity should build on former and on-going work and experiences in countries and by organisations, and aim at representing and consolidating different initiatives.

The expected outcome of the action is a common pan-European approach to valuation of multiple forest services which will facilitate awareness-raising on the multiple contributions of forest functions to societies, serve informed decision making and help assessing achievements against the 2020 targets for European forests.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame	Related Goals and Targets
Development of pan-European valuation approach to forest ecosystem services			
A group of experts should explore and propose a pan-European approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services, such as, for example, carbon storage, water supply, soil protection, livelihoods, recreation, protective function, biodiversity; and means to facilitate implementation of the valuation approach. - cf. next activity.	Serbia, United Kingdom, Turkey, France, Czech Republic, EFI, UNECE/FAO, Council of Europe, USSE, UNEP, Liaison Unit Madrid	2012 - 2013	GI, GII GVII / TIV, TVI, TVII, TVIII

<p>A Workshop to share the main lines and outcomes should be established to consolidate the proposals and identifying effective priorities and measures to promote its use with the view that values are increasingly reflected in relevant national policies and market-based instruments such as payments for ecosystem services.</p> <p>The proposals should be presented to the Expert Level Meeting in 2014 on consolidating policies and tools for Sustainable Forest Management for possible adoption</p>	<p>Serbia, EFI, United Kingdom, France, UNECE/FAO, Council of Europe, USSE, UNEP, Liaison Unit Madrid,</p>	<p>2013 - 2014</p>	<p>GI, GII GVII / TIV, TVI, TVII, TVIII</p>
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5. Sustainable Forest Management in a Green economy

In the Oslo Ministerial Conference, ministers stressed the lack of emphasis being placed on social aspects of forestry and the need to adapt to changing societal needs and priorities. They also emphasised the role of forests in transitioning to a green economy.

Stressing the need of maintaining and enhancing cultural and social forest functions under new challenges, as fostering green jobs, addressing valuation of multiple forest functions, transitioning to a green economy, etc., FOREST EUROPE will work together with Finland, UNECE, BWI, EFBWW, IUFRO and others to facilitate the exchange of views and identify future priority areas for enhancing social aspects at national and pan-European levels.

In order to enhance the role of forests in a green economy and their contribution to sustainable development, FOREST EUROPE would develop a strategic approach to raise awareness and to serve decision making on the contributions of multiple forest functions to local, national and regional economies, learning from former initiatives, including: work related to the ECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy; the UNEP Green Economy report and the outcomes of the conference “Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy”, a country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests held on 4-7 October in Bonn and the outcomes of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio in June 2012 (Rio+20).

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame	Related Goals and Targets
Enhancing employment and social aspects of Sustainable Forest Management			
<p>A working group should be established to propose pan-European approaches to fostering green jobs and other social aspects of forests regarding new challenges in rural development, territory, etc. in a transition to a Green Economy.</p> <p>The proposals should be brought to an Expert Level Meeting (ELM).</p>	<p>Finland, UNECE/FAO, BWI, EFBWW, IUFRO, USSE, Liaison Unit Madrid</p>	<p>2012-2013</p>	<p>GI, GII, GIII, GIV, GVII / TIV, TVIII</p>
Development of pan-European approach to address the role of forests in a green economy			
<p>A working group should propose pan-European approach to raise awareness and to serve decision making on the contributions of multiple forest functions to the world economy, building upon the outcomes of Rio+20</p> <p>The proposal should be presented for the Expert Level Meeting (ELM).</p>	<p>Germany, Finland, Sweden UNEP, UNECE/FAO, Liaison Unit Madrid</p>	<p>2013-2014</p>	<p>GI, GII / TII, TIII, TIV, TVIII</p>

6. Servicing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

A legally binding agreement on forests in Europe must be developed, as mandated by the ministers at the Oslo Conference. In this regard, the Liaison Unit was requested and the European Forest Institute and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme were invited to service jointly the negotiation process.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame
Servicing negotiation process		
Service the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC).	FAO, EFI, Liaison Unit Madrid	2011-2013

7. Communication and Outreach

Strategic communications and outreach activities should support all FOREST EUROPE actions. These should further enhance the visibility of forests and the forest sectors multiple contributions to global challenges and societal needs, as well as support FOREST EUROPE in achieving its overall objectives.

Activity	Leading actors	Time frame
Further implement the FOREST EUROPE Communications Strategy to continue enhancing and raising awareness and understanding of all contributions by forests and Sustainable Forest Management to the three pillars of sustainable development, environmental, economic and socio-cultural elements, and the contributions by FOREST EUROPE in facing and responding to national, regional and global challenges	Liaison Unit Madrid, all partners	On-going
Undertake communications activities related to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the negotiations of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe	Liaison Unit Madrid, all partners	On-going
Participation in global and regional fora to raise awareness of the work of FOREST EUROPE, to enhance coordination and cross-sectorial cooperation and to promote Sustainable Forest Management including among the public	Liaison Unit Madrid, all partners	On-going

8. International activities supportive to the follow-up of the Oslo conference

- Workshop on forests in transition and the development of the Green Economy in order to address the region's specific developments and framework conditions, also in the light of the impact of the changing environment, and analyse the contribution of forests goods and services in the green economy. Organized by Switzerland, Ukraine, UNECE/FAO, UNFF, FOREST EUROPE. Ukraine, 11-14 September 2012.
- Workshop on Financing Forest Ecosystem Services: matching offer and demand. Designed as a cross-sectorial debate on the most effective Policy Options to: 1) generate sustainable demand and willingness to pay for Forest Ecosystem Services, including Public, corporate and private demand and 2) Guaranty the quality and quantity of demanded Ecosystem services at the lowest possible transactional costs. Organized by USSE and others. November 2012 (tbc).

- Working Group on Combating Desertification and Dry Zone Forestry (Turkey- tbc).
- Working Group on Urban Forestry (Turkey- tbc).
- Promotion of conservation and use of forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe (Biodiversity International)- ongoing.

Annex 1. Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 and Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe



Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
Oslo 14-16 June 2011

Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020

1. RECALLING the Declarations of the Ministerial Conferences in Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998, including the vision for the European forest sector, Vienna 2003 and Warsaw 2007, which identified issues of transboundary nature and common concern with regard to forests and recognised the need for strengthening cooperation between the states of the entire European continent in the field of sustainable management of their forests;
2. REITERATING commitments to work towards addressing global environmental challenges and contributing to the achievement of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests, with its Four Global Objectives on Forests, as well as other global objectives such as: the Millennium Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the climate change commitments;
3. REITERATING former FOREST EUROPE commitments, and TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the work undertaken by other international forums on forest-related policies, including the Rio Conventions and the United Nations Forum on Forests as well as regional organisations and initiatives;
4. TAKING NOTE of the recent findings of the *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report, stating significant progress made in most indicators for sustainable forest management as well as future challenges and opportunities for forests and their sustainable management in Europe, while acknowledging the improvements achieved in data collection as well as the need for further improvement in forest information;
5. REAFFIRMING that sustainable forest management means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems;
6. RECOGNISING that climate change is one of the gravest threats faced by society and AWARE that urgent action is required to minimise risks of damage from events such as storms, floods, fire, drought, pests and diseases in order to protect European forests and their functions;
7. RECOGNISING that forests and sustainable forest management contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, provide renewable raw material, energy supply, water and soil protection and other ecosystem services as well as protect society and societal infrastructures against natural hazards;
8. RECOGNISING the importance of economic functions of forests and their potential in fostering a green economy and for generating and maintaining jobs and income, contributing to rural development and enabling the long term economic viability and competitiveness of forestry and forest-based industries;

9. BEING CONCERNED about the negative impacts of illegal logging and related trade on society, the environment and markets, and CONVINCED about the need to further strengthen efforts to improve forest law enforcement and governance;
10. RECOGNISING the value of adequate and accessible forest information, such as forest inventories, monitoring, assessing and reporting on implementation of sustainable forest management as well as science-based knowledge, for decision making at all levels;
11. SEEKING the best way to enhance the role of European forests in contributing to solving the national and global challenges posed by climate change, desertification, loss of biodiversity and other environmental challenges while responding to the growing need for timber as a renewable material, and maintaining the ability of Europe's forests to contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of people;
12. STRESSING the importance of national circumstances, national sovereignty over natural resources and national responsibilities in implementing sustainable forest management bearing in mind the forest ownership structure in Europe and UNDERLINING the added value of European cooperation and joint actions for enhancing progress in sustainable management of forest and of sharing forest-related information;
13. TAKING NOTE of the External Review of the FOREST EUROPE process carried out in 2008/2009 and WELCOMING the outcomes of the work and reflections done afterwards;
14. AWARE that the challenges faced by forests in a rapidly changing environment cannot be addressed through forest policy measures alone and SEEKING to strengthen relationships and synergies in the work of the forest sector with other sectors and institutions for greater coherence in forest-related policy-making;
15. UNDERLINING the will to ensure that all forests in Europe are sustainably managed, and to promote and raise awareness in society about their multiple goods and services;
16. CONVINCED about the need to take effective measures to improve coherence in forest policy development and implementation with appropriate participation of stakeholders;

As representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we

VISION FOR FORESTS IN EUROPE

17. SHARE the following vision:

To shape a future where all European forests are vital, productive and multifunctional. Where forests contribute effectively to sustainable development, through ensuring human well-being, a healthy environment and economic development in Europe and across the globe. Where the forests' unique potential to support a green economy, livelihoods, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, enhancing water quality and combating desertification is realised to the benefit of society;

GOALS FOR EUROPEAN FORESTS

18. DECIDE on the following goals for European forests in support of the shared vision:
 - I. Sustainable management of all European forests ensures multiple forest functions and enhances lasting provision of goods and services
 - II. European forests contribute to a green economy, including through increased provision of wood, other forest products and ecosystem services from sustainable sources
 - III. Forest management in Europe is being adapted to changes in climate, forests are healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats such as forest fires, and the productive and protective functions of forests are maintained

- IV. The potential of European forests to mitigate climate change, through carbon sequestration in trees and soils, carbon storage in forest products and substitution of non-renewable materials and energy sources, is utilised to minimise Europe's ecological footprint without harming the global carbon balance
- V. The loss of forest biodiversity in Europe is halted and degraded forests are restored or rehabilitated
- VI. The role of forests in combating the progress of desertification is strengthened
- VII. Socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests are optimised
- VIII. Illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe;

EUROPEAN 2020 TARGETS

19. DECIDE on the following European targets to be achieved by 2020 in support of the shared vision and the goals for forests:
- I. All European countries have developed and are implementing national forest programmes, or its equivalent, in line with the shared vision and goals and the pan-European approach to national forest programmes
 - II. In addressing emerging issues forest knowledge is improved through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication
 - III. In response to political objectives on the use of renewable raw material and energy in Europe, the supply of wood and other forest products from sustainably managed forests has increased substantially
 - IV. The full value of forest ecosystem services across Europe is being estimated with a view to using common valuation approaches, and that values are increasingly reflected in relevant national policies and market-based instruments such as payments for ecosystem services
 - V. All European countries include strategies for forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation in national forest programmes or equivalents and all other relevant national strategies
 - VI. The rate of loss of forest biodiversity at habitat level is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and measures are taken to significantly reduce forest fragmentation and degradation and to restore degraded forests
 - VII. The role of forests in combating desertification is fully recognised and forests are also managed to that end
 - VIII. All European countries have policies and measures which ensure a significant increase in socio-economic and cultural benefits, especially for human health, livelihoods, rural development and employment from forests
 - IX. Effective measures are taken at regional, sub-regional and national levels to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade;

MISSION OF FOREST EUROPE

20. DECIDE on the following mission for FOREST EUROPE to advance realisation of the shared vision, the goals and the 2020 targets for forests:

FOREST EUROPE enhances the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and secures and promotes sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society;

21. DECIDE that to fulfil the mission, FOREST EUROPE will undertake the following tasks:
 - a. Develop and update policies and tools for sustainable forest management, including by facilitating open and flexible policy dialogue, active participation by relevant stakeholders and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination with other actors;
 - b. Monitor, assess and facilitate implementation of commitments on forests and sustainable forest management in all European countries and in the region as a whole;
 - c. Promote education, research and the use of scientific knowledge and facilitate sharing of experiences across countries, sectors and stakeholders on all aspects of sustainable forest management and other forest related issues;
 - d. Raise awareness and understanding of contributions by FOREST EUROPE to sustainable forest management in relevant fora including at international level and among the public, including through implementation of the communications strategy;

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

22. ENDORSE the Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation with a special focus on the provisions of the UNFCCC, developed in collaboration with Environment for Europe/Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
23. NOTE the progress made on European Forest Types and encourage continued refinement of forest classification integrated with work on further reporting and development of sustainable forest management and its tools;
24. DECIDE to develop a FOREST EUROPE work programme with prioritised joint European actions to be carried out in cooperation with partners and other organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the European Forest Institute. The work programme should, in parallel to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on preparing a legally binding agreement, address the following actions:

- a. *Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools*

Responding to increasing attention and new scientific knowledge on the multiple roles that forests and sustainable forest management play in tackling global challenges, FOREST EUROPE will step up efforts and further consolidate the pan-European policies and tools for sustainable forest management, taking into account biodiversity and climate change commitments, emerging threats to and pressure on forest resources as well as the role of forest owners;

- b. *Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting*

Stressing the importance of adequate, accessible and evidence-based forest information at all levels of policy making, and for informing the broader public, FOREST EUROPE will further improve the basis for forest monitoring and harmonised reporting systems to serve emerging needs, including for verification of legality and sustainability;

- c. *Strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade*

Responding to the severe consequences of illegal logging and related trade and to the challenges posed by global deforestation, and in order to complement and underpin efforts by the European Union and the ENA/FLEG process against illegal logging and related trade, FOREST EUROPE will further strengthen efforts for good governance and forest law enforcement, inter alia by cooperating to ensure that timber traded within or into FOREST EUROPE signatories' derives from legally harvested forests, and by facilitating the exchange of lessons learned;

d. Valuation of forest ecosystem services

Stressing the importance of the full range of forest goods and services, FOREST EUROPE will develop a common approach to valuation of forest ecosystem services and promote its use, with the aim of raising awareness of the contributions to societies of multiple forest functions, to serve informed decision making and to assess achievements against the 2020 targets;

25. COMMIT to further develop and implement national policies for sustainable forest management in accordance with national and local conditions and priorities, and to monitor and report on the progress towards sustainable forest management, and in line with this jointly explore measures to improve monitoring of the achievements of the European 2020 targets;
26. COMMIT to identify and implement national actions to fulfil the shared vision and the related goals and 2020 targets for forests in Europe;
27. ENCOURAGE potential donors, on request, to support the development and implementation of national forest programmes or forest sector plans and strategies in countries undertaking forest sector reform, particularly countries with economies in transition.



Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
Oslo 14-16 June 2011

Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

1. RECALLING the Declarations of the Ministerial Conferences in Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998, including the vision for the European forest sector, Vienna 2003 and Warsaw 2007, which identified issues of transboundary nature and common concern with regard to forests and recognised the need for strengthening cooperation between the states of the entire European continent in the field of sustainable management of their forests;
2. REITERATING commitments to work towards addressing global environmental challenges and contributing to the achievement of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests, with its Four Global Objectives on Forests, as well as other global objectives such as: the Millennium Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the climate change commitments;
3. REITERATING former FOREST EUROPE commitments, and TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the work undertaken by other international forums on forest-related policies, including the Rio Conventions and the United Nations Forum on Forests as well as regional organisations and initiatives;
4. TAKING NOTE of the recent findings of the *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report, stating significant progress made in most indicators for sustainable forest management as well as future challenges and opportunities for forests and their sustainable management in Europe, while acknowledging the improvements achieved in data collection as well as the need for further improvement in forest information;
5. REAFFIRMING that sustainable forest management means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems;
6. RECOGNISING that climate change is one of the gravest threats faced by society and AWARE that urgent action is required to minimise risks of damage from events such as storms, floods, fire, drought, pests and diseases in order to protect European forests and their functions;
7. RECOGNISING that forests and sustainable forest management contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, provide renewable raw material, energy supply, water and soil protection and other ecosystem services as well as protect society and societal infrastructures against natural hazards;
8. RECOGNISING the importance of economic functions of forests and their potential in fostering a green economy and for generating and maintaining jobs and income, contributing to rural development and enabling the long term economic viability and competitiveness of forestry and forest-based industries;

9. BEING CONCERNED about the negative impacts of illegal logging and related trade on society, the environment and markets, and CONVINCED about the need to further strengthen efforts to improve forest law enforcement and governance;
10. RECOGNISING the value of adequate and accessible forest information, such as forest inventories, monitoring, assessing and reporting on implementation of sustainable forest management as well as science-based knowledge, for decision making at all levels;
11. SEEKING the best way to enhance the role of European forests in contributing to solving the national and global challenges posed by climate change, desertification, loss of biodiversity and other environmental challenges while responding to the growing need for timber as a renewable material, and maintaining the ability of Europe's forests to contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of people;
12. STRESSING the importance of national circumstances, national sovereignty over natural resources and national responsibilities in implementing sustainable forest management bearing in mind the forest ownership structure in Europe and UNDERLINING the added value of European cooperation and joint actions for enhancing progress in sustainable management of forest and of sharing forest-related information;
13. TAKING NOTE of the External Review of the FOREST EUROPE process carried out in 2008/2009 and WELCOMING the outcomes of the work and reflections done afterwards;
14. AWARE that the challenges faced by forests in a rapidly changing environment cannot be addressed through forest policy measures alone and SEEKING to strengthen relationships and synergies in the work of the forest sector with other sectors and institutions for greater coherence in forest-related policy-making;
15. UNDERLINING the will to ensure that all forests in Europe are sustainably managed, and to promote and raise awareness in society about their multiple goods and services;
16. CONVINCED about the need to take effective measures to improve coherence in forest policy development and implementation with appropriate participation of stakeholders;
17. CONVINCED that a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe is necessary to reinforce and strengthen implementation of sustainable forest management with the view to achieving balanced and stable continuity of all economic, environmental, cultural and social forest functions in Europe, and will contribute to achieving the vision, goals and targets for forests in Europe (Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020);

As representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we

18. DECIDE to take further international action consisting of the elaboration of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and DECIDE to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe;
19. DECIDE to adopt the Rules of Procedure which will apply to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and which are annexed to this Mandate (Annex 1);
20. DECIDE to establish a Bureau for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which shall consist of the Chair of the Committee and representatives of the following countries: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine, and Spain as permanent observer;
21. NOMINATE Mr. Jan Heino (Finland) for the Chairmanship of the Committee;
22. REQUEST the Chair and the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to facilitate the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in fulfilling its mandate and to guide the secretariat in providing necessary service to the negotiations;

23. DECIDE that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, basing its work on existing FOREST EUROPE Resolutions and Declarations and relevant international commitments relating to forests, and taking into account the Non-paper on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, is to develop a holistic legally binding framework agreement for forests, to address, inter alia, the following possible subjects:
- a. To ensure sustainable forest management in Europe and the long-term provision of a broad range of goods and forest ecosystem services;
 - b. To maintain and enhance forest resources in Europe, their health, vitality and resilience, and their adaptation to climate change;
 - c. To increase the resilience of forests to natural hazards and to protect forest against human-induced threats;
 - d. To enhance the contributions of forests to the mitigation of climate change;
 - e. To maintain and enhance the protective and productive potential of European forests;
 - f. To halt the loss of forest biodiversity in Europe and combat desertification;
 - g. To create and maintain enabling conditions for European forests to contribute to a green economy, employment and the development of rural and urban areas;
 - h. To maintain and enhance the cultural and social functions of forests in Europe;
 - i. To reduce, with the aim of eliminating, illegal logging and associated trade in timber and timber products;
 - j. To improve the forest knowledge base through research, education, information sharing and communication;
 - k. To enhance participation and cooperation on forests at local, national, regional and global levels;
24. REQUEST that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in developing a legally binding framework agreement for forests, considers the following:
- a. The importance of flexibility, so that Parties can take decisions adjusted to their specific forest conditions and to provide for addressing changing and emerging needs in the future;
 - b. Global discussions on possible improvement of international arrangements on forests, including those related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20 Conference), with the view to seeking for synergies;
 - c. The need to achieve cooperation and coordination and to avoid unnecessary duplication of proposed actions with relevant provisions contained in other international agreements;
 - d. The importance of securing the effective participation of stakeholders;
 - e. Agreement on common terms and definitions, based on the broader involvement of FAO and other organisations with the necessary expertise;
 - f. Efficient organisation and streamlined secretariat arrangements;
 - g. The possibility of the agreement being brought under the United Nations umbrella;

25. DECIDE that participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will be open to FOREST EUROPE Signatories (Annex 2) and INVITE them to actively contribute to the success of the negotiating process;
26. INVITE FOREST EUROPE observer States, agencies and organisations, including non-governmental organisations, to participate in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
27. REQUEST the Liaison Unit and INVITE the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Forest Institute to service jointly the negotiating process in accordance with the Annex to the Rules of Procedure and based upon the respective expertise of each organisation and the resources that they can contribute within their mandates;
28. INVITE also other interested governments and organisations to contribute by supporting the negotiation process;
29. DECIDE that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will commence its work not later than 31 December 2011 with the goal to completing its work not later than 30 June 2013 and will present its results to an extraordinary FOREST EUROPE ministerial conference to be organised within six months after the conclusion of the negotiations, for its consideration and possible adoption and opening for signature.

Annex 1:

Rules of Procedure for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe

I. PURPOSE

Rule 1 - Purpose and application

These Rules of Procedure shall govern the negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, conducted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee established by the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

II. DEFINITIONS

Rule 2 - Definitions

1. "Party" means a UN member state or a regional economic integration organisation, which is a Signatory to Forest Europe and which is participating in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.
2. "Regional economic integration organisation" means an organisation constituted by sovereign States of a given region to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters covered by the Committee's work.
3. "Committee" means the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), for the purpose of negotiating a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.
4. "Chair" means the Chair nominated by paragraph 21 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.
5. "Bureau" means the Bureau established by paragraph 20 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.
6. "Secretariat" means the secretariat established by paragraph 27 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.
7. "Representatives present and voting" means representatives of Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.
8. "Official documents" means documents directly related to agenda items and which form the basis of discussions foreseen on the agenda.
9. "Signatory to FOREST EUROPE" means the countries listed in Annex 2 to the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

III. PLACE AND DATES OF SESSIONS

Rule 3 - Place and dates of sessions

1. The Committee shall hold up to four sessions.
2. The date and place of the first session shall be decided by the Bureau.
3. The places and dates of the subsequent sessions shall be decided by the Committee in consultation with the Bureau and the Secretariat.

4. The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date and place of a session at least six weeks before the session is to take place.

IV. AGENDA

Rule 4.1 - Provisional agenda for sessions

1. The Secretariat shall, after approval by the Bureau, submit to the Committee at each session the provisional agenda for the following session. The provisional agenda shall include all items proposed by the Committee.
2. The Secretariat shall circulate the provisional agenda for the first session at least six weeks before the session takes place.
3. The Secretariat shall, at the request of a Party or the Bureau and with the agreement of the Chair, include in an addendum to the provisional agenda any issue suitable for the agenda that may arise between the dispatch of the provisional agenda and the opening of the session.

Rule 4.2 - Adoption and revision of the agenda

At the beginning of each session, the Committee shall adopt its agenda for the session based on the provisional agenda, and has the option to add, delete, defer or amend items.

V. REPRESENTATION

Rule 5.1 - Composition of delegations

The delegation of each Party participating in any session shall consist of a head of delegation and such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. No credentials are required for the sessions of the Committee.

Rule 5.2 - Alternates and advisers

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

VI. BUREAU

Rule 6.1 - Number of officers and the Chair

The Bureau is established by paragraph 20 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and is comprised of one Chair and eight other members who will act as Vice-Chairs, and one permanent observer.

Rule 6.2 - Substitution of a Chair

If the Chair is absent from a session or any part thereof, a Vice-Chair shall act as Chair.

Rule 6.3 - Replacement of the Chair

If the Chair is unable to continue to perform his or her functions, the Committee shall elect by consensus decision the Chair for the unexpired term. If no consensus can be reached, the decision shall be taken by a three-quarters majority of the representatives present and voting.

Rule 6.4 - Substitution and replacement of other members of the Bureau

Without prejudice to Rule, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

1. If a member of the Bureau is temporarily unable to fulfill his or her function, a representative of the same

Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said member. Such substitution shall not exceed the period of one session;

2. If a member of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete or perform his or her function, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said member. If the Party does not provide the replacement, election of a new Bureau member shall take place according to Rule 6.5 at the next session.

Rule 6.5 - Election of officers

Without prejudice to Rule 6.3 for any replacement the Committee shall choose, by consensus decision a Party who shall nominate its representative to the Bureau. If no consensus can be reached, the decision shall be taken by a three-quarters majority of the representatives present and voting.

Rule 6.6 - Permanent Observer to the Bureau

Permanent observer to the Bureau as nominated by paragraph 20 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe contributes to the work of the Bureau, but cannot act as Chair and cannot vote.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Rule 7.1 - The Secretariat

The Secretariat, established by paragraph 27 of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe is tasked to service the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee under the guidance of the Bureau and perform all work that the Committee may require, as per the Annex to these Rules of Procedure.

Rule 7.2 - Session management

The Secretariat shall be responsible for convening sessions in accordance with rules 3 and 4 and for making all the necessary arrangements for sessions, including ensuring interpretation into the official languages during sessions, the preparation and distribution of all documentation for the session by e-mail and on the website at least six weeks before the opening of a session.

Rule 7.3 - Document management

1. For all sessions of the Committee, the Secretariat shall in accordance with these Rules:
 - a. receive, translate into official languages and distribute the official documents;
 - b. circulate the documents of the sessions;
 - c. publish and circulate relevant documentation to the Parties;
 - d. have the custody of the documents in the Committee's archives.
2. The Secretariat shall distribute the draft negotiating text of each session of the Committee in official languages to the Parties and observers no later than six weeks after the closure of the session to which the negotiating text relates.

Rule 7.4 - Report of the sessions

The Chair shall prepare the reports by the end of the sessions and shall distribute the final reports in the official languages to the FOREST EUROPE Signatories and observers.

VIII. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS OF THE SESSION

Rule 8.1 - Languages of the sessions

English, French and Russian shall be the official languages of the sessions.

Rule 8.2 - Interpretation

Interventions made in a language of the sessions shall be interpreted into the other official languages.

Rule 8.3

A representative may speak in a language other than an official language of the sessions. In this case he or she shall himself or herself provide interpretation into one of the languages of the session, and interpretation into the other languages may be based on the interpretation given in the first language.

IX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 9.1 - Quorum

1. The Chair may declare a session open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the Parties participating in the session are present. The presence of a majority of Parties so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.
2. For the purpose of determining a quorum for a decision to be taken on a matter within the competence of a regional economic integration organisation, that organisation shall be counted to the extent of the number of votes it is entitled to cast according to the Rule 10.3.2.

Rule 9.2 - Powers of the Chair

1. The Chair is to facilitate the Committee in achieving its objectives with the support of the Bureau.
2. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by the present Rules, the Chair shall:
 - a. declare the opening and closing of each session;
 - b. direct the discussion;
 - c. ensure observance of the present Rules;
 - d. accord the right to speak;
 - e. put questions to the vote;
 - f. announce decisions.
3. The Chair shall rule on points of order and, subject to the present Rules, have control over the proceedings of the sessions and over the maintenance of order at sessions.
4. The Chair may propose to the session the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each Party may speak on any subject, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. The Chair may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the session or of the debate on the question under discussion.
5. The Chair, in the exercise of his or her functions, remains under the Committee's authority.

Rule 9.3 - Vice Chair acting as Chair

A Vice-Chair acting as Chair shall have the same powers and duties as the Chair.

Rule 9.4 - Voting of the Chair

The Chair or a vice-Chair acting as a Chair shall not vote.

Rule 9.5 - Rules for Debate

No one may address a session without having previously obtained the Chair's permission. Subject to these rules, the Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. However, a Party will be given precedence over Observers. The Chair shall call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are irrelevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 9.6 - Points of order

1. During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a Party may at any time raise a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided upon by the Chair in accordance with these Rules. A representative of a Party may appeal against the Chair's ruling. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the Chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority vote of the representatives present and voting.
2. A representative of a Party raising a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 9.7 - Time limit, closing list of speakers and adjournment of debate

1. The Chair may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times that each speaker may speak on any question. When debate is limited and a speaker has spoken for his or her allotted time, the Chair shall call him or her to order without delay.
2. During the course of a debate, the Chair may announce the list of speakers and, with the Committee's consent, declare the list closed. The Chair may, however, accord the right of reply to any Party if, in his or her opinion, a speech delivered after he or she has declared the list closed renders this justified. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the Chair, with the Committee's consent, shall declare the debate closed.
3. During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a Party may move the adjournment of the debate on the subject under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative of a Party may speak in favour of and one against the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 9.8 - Closure of debate

A representative of a Party may at any time request the closure of the debate on the subject under discussion, whether or not any other representative of a Party has signified his or her wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two representatives of Parties opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Committee is in favour of the closure, the Chair shall declare the closure of the debate.

Rule 9.9 - Suspension or adjournment of a session

During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a Party may request the suspension or the adjournment of any session. Such motion shall not be debated but shall immediately be put to the vote.

Rule 9.10 - Order of procedural motions

Regardless of the order in which they are submitted, the following motions shall have precedence, in the following order, over all other proposals or motions before the session:

- a. To suspend the session;
- b. To adjourn the session;
- c. To suspend the debate on the subject under discussion;
- d. To adjourn the debate on the subject under discussion.

Rule 9.11 - Proposals and amendments

1. Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and submitted to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies in official languages to all representatives of Parties 6 weeks before the opening of the session. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any session of the Committee unless copies of it have been circulated in the official languages of the session to all representatives of Parties not later than the day preceding the session. Subject to the Committee's consent, the Chair may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals or amendments that have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day, in which case the proposal or amendment has to be read out in a formal session.
2. A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises that proposal. The Committee shall decide on an amendment before it decides on the proposal to which it relates, and if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

X. DECISIONS

Rule 10.1 - Adoption of decisions

1. The Committee shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement is reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a three-quarters majority of the representatives present and voting.
2. Decisions of the Committee on procedural matters shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.
3. If a vote is divided equally, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.
4. Where there is disagreement as to whether a matter to be voted on is a substantive or procedural matter, that issue shall be decided by a three-quarters majority of the representatives present and voting.

Rule 10.2 - Voting on proposals and amendments

1. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Committee shall, unless it decides otherwise, decide on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. Any proposals or motions requiring that no decision be taken on the substance of such proposals shall, however, be considered as previous questions and shall be put to the vote before them.
2. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. If two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Committee shall first decide on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed from the original proposal and so on, until all amendments have been decided on. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall

not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

Rule 10.3 - Voting rights

1. Each Party shall have one vote, except as provided for in paragraph 2.
2. A regional economic integration organisation shall, on matters within its competence, exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States participating in the Committee. Such an organisation shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right to vote, and vice versa.

Rule 10.4 - Method of voting

The Committee shall normally vote by show of hands, but any representative of a Party may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties, beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lot by the Chair. If, however, at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

Rule 10.5 - Recording of roll-call

The vote of each Party participating in a roll-call shall be recorded in the report of the meeting.

Rule 10.6 - Conduct during voting

After the Chair has announced the beginning of voting, no representative of a Party shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Chair may permit representatives of Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting - except when the vote is taken by secret ballot - and may limit the time allowed for such explanations.

Rule 10.7 - Division of proposals or amendments

A representative of a Party may request that parts of a proposal or of an amendment shall be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given to only two representatives of Parties in favour and two against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment that are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

XI. OBSERVERS

Rule 11.1

Any State not a Signatory to FOREST EUROPE may be represented at the Committee as observer.

Rule 11.2

Organisations with a status as observer of FOREST EUROPE can obtain the status of an observer within the Committee in accordance with Rule 11.3.

Rule 11.3

Any body or agency qualified in matters relevant to this agreement which is either:

- a. an international agency or body, either governmental or non-governmental, or a national governmental agency or body; or

- b. a national non-governmental agency or body which has been approved for this purpose by the State in which it is located;

and which has informed the Secretariat of its desire to be represented at the Committee by observers, shall be permitted to be so represented unless one-third of the Representatives present and voting object. Once admitted, the right of observers to be represented may be withdrawn if so agreed by one-third of the Representatives present and voting.

Rule 11.4

The Chair may invite observers to participate in discussions on specific issues, or particular problems. No proposal by an observer shall be discussed unless this proposal is supported by at least one Party.

Rule 11.5

Observer delegations may provide written statements to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall distribute copies of the written statements in the language in which the statement was made available to them.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 12.1

Any Rule of Procedure may be amended or suspended by a decision of the Committee taken by consensus in accordance with the procedure of Rule 9.11, provided that at least 24 hours' notice of the proposal has been given.

Rule 12.2

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these Rules and the Oslo Ministerial Mandate the latter shall prevail.

Annex to the Rules of Procedure: Distribution of roles among the Liaison Unit, UNECE, FAO, UNEP and EFI

To the extent that the resources and mandate of the Liaison Unit, UNECE, FAO, UNEP and EFI allow, the tasks should be allocated as shown below. If, for any reason, this becomes impossible, adjustments may be made by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in consultation with all parties.

Liaison Unit

- Facilitating arrangements for servicing the negotiating process
- Supporting other work in the inter-sessional periods as requested by the Bureau or the Committee
- Advising on FOREST EUROPE matters and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe commitments as well as providing a link to the FOREST EUROPE work programme
- Liaising with countries, other processes, stakeholders and civil society
- Developing and maintaining the website
- Preparing and organising the next Ministerial Conference
- Undertaking communication activities

UNECE, FAO and UNEP

- Servicing meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its Bureau including session management, document management and reporting as well as any other relevant tasks as requested by the Bureau or the Committee
- Providing legal advice
- Providing advice on synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and processes
- Liaising with UN organisations
- Providing analysis and information in support of the negotiations

European Forest Institute

- Providing independent scientific and policy advice in support of the negotiations
- Providing inputs to information needs identified by the Committee.

Annex 2: FOREST EUROPE Signatories

Albania
Andorra
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
European Union
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Additional successor states of the former Soviet Union not mentioned in the above list should be entitled to join the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, as the USSR was a signatory of the Strasbourg Resolutions of 1990.