



**FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting,
23 - 24 March 2010, Oslo, Norway**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Information on the state of preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference
4. Information on progress of the working group on preparing options for a decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe - report by the Co-Chairs of the working group
5. Future political commitments on forests in Europe: Preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference
6. Road map towards the Sixth Ministerial Conference
7. Information on short term follow-up of the working group on "sustainability criteria"
8. Exchange of information on up-coming international activities, including the International Year of Forests
9. Other matters
10. Closure of the meeting

Meeting hours:

Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 10.00 – 13.00 and 15.00 – 18.00 hours

Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 09.00 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 17.00 hours

Venue:

Oslo Congress Centre, Arbeidersamfunnets plass 1, 0181 Oslo, Norway
(located in the centre of Oslo)

Please note that the venue is not the same as the venue for previous ELMs in Oslo!

Reception:

Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 18.30 hours, held at Oslo Congress Centre

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Information on the state of preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference

The Liaison Unit Oslo will inform the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) on the state of preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference.

4. Information on progress of the working group on preparing options for a decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe - report by the Co-Chairs of the working group

The Co-Chairpersons of the working group will provide information about the outcome of the first meeting of the working group, held in Geneva on 22-23 February, and plans for further work.

5. Future political commitments on forests in Europe: Preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference

FOREST EUROPE is now in the stage of preparing for the Sixth Ministerial Conference, which will be held in June 2011. At the ELM in November 2009 it was decided that the General Coordinating Committee (GCC) should prepare a strategic paper on options for future developments of FOREST EUROPE in order to prepare for ministerial commitments at the next Ministerial Conference.

It was further decided that this approach of strengthening the forest policy cooperation should run in parallel with the work of the "Working group on preparing options for decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe". These two approaches should be merged and considered in context when preparing for informed decisions at the next Ministerial Conference. As the working group on a possible legally binding agreement will deliver results later this year, options for decisions by the ministers at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on a possible legally binding agreement should not be an issue for discussion at this ELM.

To facilitate a discussion on elements to be prepared for the Ministerial Conference, the GCC has developed a strategic document for consideration by the ELM - *Future political commitments on forests in Europe: Preparations for the sixth Ministerial Conference*. The document is based *inter alia* on the outcome of the external review and on the suggestions and opinions exchanged at the ELM in November 2009 regarding issues to be addressed at the Ministerial Conference. The GCC document includes the following parts: list of challenges and opportunities facing European forests; examples of a vision, goals and targets for Europe's forests and mission of FOREST EUROPE; examples of elements related to forests and climate change; and framework for cooperation. These elements, including the results from the working group on a possible legally binding agreement, could form a basis for developing a package to be presented for decision by the ministers at the upcoming Ministerial Conference. This package could be in the form of one decision document.

The ELM is invited to discuss the strategic document developed by the GCC and decide on elements to be further prepared for decisions by ministers at the Sixth Ministerial Conference. The participants of the ELM are also invited to provide their views on a possible format of the commitments to be made at the conference.

Documentation:

ELM/2010/Oslo/Doc 2: Future political commitments on forests in Europe: Preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference

6. Road map towards the Sixth Ministerial Conference

In order to prepare for the Sixth Ministerial Conference, the ELM should agree on a plan for how to organise the work of FOREST EUROPE in the period until June 2011. This plan should be based on the decisions under agenda item 5.

The ELM is invited to discuss and agree on a plan for how to organise the work of FOREST EUROPE towards the sixth Ministerial Conference

7. Information on short term follow-up of the working group on “sustainability criteria”

The ELM in November 2009 discussed the findings and recommendations from the MCPFE Working Group on “sustainability criteria” for forest biomass production, including bioenergy. The ELM participants argued for a twofold approach to follow up on the recommendations of the working group by separating into immediate and long-term actions. In response to the views and suggestions provided by the ELM in November 2009, the GCC has developed a document with proposals on how to follow up on pending issues in the short term. The recommendations for long-term improvements in pan-European tools for sustainable forest management, improved monitoring, etc are integrated in the document *Future political commitments on forests in Europe: Preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference* (agenda item 5).

The ELM participants may wish to exchange views and ideas on the proposals by the GCC on short term follow-up of the working group on “sustainability criteria”.

Documentation:

ELM/2010/Oslo/Doc 3: Information on short term follow-up of the working group on “sustainability criteria”.

8. Exchange of information on up-coming international activities, including the International Year of Forests

The ELM participants may wish to exchange information on up-coming international meetings and activities, including activities planned for the International Year of Forests.

9. Other matters

The ELM may wish to exchange information and views on other matters.

10. Closure of the meeting