



## **Follow-up and Continuation of Works Begun at the Strasbourg Conference**

*The Signatory States and International Institution,*

considering that the protection of forests poses numerous diverse and complex problems, necessitating concerted thought and action,

conscious that the practices and culture of each European partner influences the methods of forest management, which enable the forest to fulfil in a lasting manner its long-term ecological, economic and social functions,

considering that each nation, while its separate identity must be respected, should better assume its share of the responsibility common to all European countries as regards the future of forests,

taking note that it is necessary to try to settle common principles of action between the States and organizations for regional economic integration concerned, through common consideration and concerted action, case by case, according to the diverse nature of the problems dealt with,

recognizing the need for common follow-up action on the application of the principles adopted, within the forestry policies of the signatory States and organizations for regional economic integration, and at the level of those government officials in charge of forestry affairs, in order to maintain the established momentum,

*declare their intention to proceed with discussions begun at the STRASBOURG conference, on the level of those government officials in charge of seeing that forests assume their ecological, economic and social functions in the long term.*

## THE PRINCIPLES

1. In the same spirit as that which presided over the conference proposal made jointly by the French and Finnish Ministers of Agriculture and Forest, further ministerial conferences could be convened as and when these are considered necessary in the light of the work carried out within the international bodies mentioned below. The chairmanship will be assumed by two participants, one of whom will have been co-chairman of the preceding conference, during which the other will have declared candidacy for chairmanship. The host country or organization will be in charge of the secretariat.
2. The follow-up of the recommendations adopted during the preceding conference will be included in the agenda of each meeting, as well as new proposals for joint action that may interest several of the participating countries, put forward on the initiative of one or several ministers. Each proposal examined should aim at being signed only by those countries interested in joint action in the field in question.
3. The proposals examined should be supported by expert research and consideration carried out in diverse international bodies, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in particular its European Forestry Commission, the Council of Europe, the International Union of the Forestry Research Organizations, the European Environment Agency, the working groups of the European Community,...
4. The aim is to reinforce excellence and the specific features proper to each country, while creating conditions conducive to a further coordinated effort which would enable us to protect forests more efficiently and to maintain their biological diversity.