



RESOLUTION S6

European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems

The Signatory States and International Institution,

deeming that the increase in knowledge and the changes in attitudes over the last two decades have permitted a clearer perception of the need to establish, on a scientific basis, an overall protection strategy for forests, which is not limited to the conservation of a small fraction of forest land,

noting that difficulties in forestry management have been encountered in certain cases, due to insufficient knowledge and understanding of the complexity of ecosystems,

considering that scientific works carried out in the framework of international collaboration, notably those under the aegis of the European Economic Community, have confirmed the fact that recently recorded damage to European forests is the result of complex interaction between natural causes and the actions of man,

conscious that a coherent ecosystem-based approach implies close collaboration between specialists from various disciplines in joint programmes, often bringing about the development of original methods for ecological analysis, in the field of forestry,

considering that it is necessary to limit ourselves to the study of a few themes of major interest, such as, for example, the hydrological cycle, the nutrition cycle and the energy cycle,

conscious that such research demands substantial financing, and that it is unlikely that each European country will be able to face a scientific challenge of this magnitude alone,

commit themselves to better combine their research efforts at the international level, on the management of forestry ecosystems and, to this end, to set up a European network for research into forestry ecosystems.

THE PRINCIPLES

1. In the framework of this cooperation, well-qualified teams will coordinate on themes defined in common, thus enabling the development of a real European competence, capable of elaborating concepts and works methods that will allow us to analyse problems concerning European forests, and to take into account ecosystems in all their diversity.
2. Each signatory country is invited to organize a mechanism for national cooperation, in the framework of its own appropriate structures, and then, to participate in the international activity of this network, together with the other countries.
3. The definition of a few priority research subjects particularly important for the protection of forests, and object of coordination within this network, is entrusted to a working group in which each signatory is represented, in liaison with the international organizations concerned, notably the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations.
4. A chairman will be chosen by the participating countries to lead the entire network and represent it before other bodies. Appropriate procedures will be set up to ensure collaboration and coordination with those in charge of international calls for tender in the field of research on the functioning and malfunctioning of forestry ecosystems, especially those of the European Communities.
5. Each country will finance its own contribution to this network.