

Foreword



Forests are key to fulfilling the long-term objectives of sustainability in European societies. Moreover, sustainable forest management is crucial to ensuring the ecological, economic and social functions provided by forests and presents important opportunities for addressing current challenges at global, regional and national levels.

Evidence-based information on the status and trends in forests and forest management is crucial for sound policy-making, dialogue and communication with other forest-related sectors and society. Furthermore, we in Spain firmly believe that up-to-date forest policy can make a key contribution to the sustainability and well-being of our citizens, both city dwellers and, particularly, those who live in rural communities.

Given that 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the establishment of FOREST EUROPE, we would like to highlight the fact that the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators have proved to be a very helpful tool in providing solid information as basis for decision-making over the years. Therefore I am certain that this new edition of the “State of Europe’s Forests” will contribute to facilitating fruitful discussions on forests and their sustainable management in the pan-European region between policymakers, the private sector and civil society.

I would like to thank all of the individuals, organizations and countries that contributed to the development and publication of this fourth edition of the “State of Europe’s Forests”. This report is the product of the efforts and excellent collaboration of a number of organizations and experts. It is imperative that we strive to maintain this collaboration in the future as it has proved very valuable in strengthening co-operation in the pan-European region in recent years.

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