Implementation of
the FOREST EUROPE Commitments

National and pan-European actions 2011-2015

Towards Goals for European Forests and Targets for 2020
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Annex II. Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
“As we deliberate on the post-2015 development agenda, let us acknowledge the vital role of forests and pledge to work together to protect and sustainably manage these vital ecosystems”

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
Along with its remarkable natural forest capital, Europe has an important political framework for cooperation and exceptional technical and human capital in particular. Stakeholders are deeply involved in sustainable forest protection and management and it is crucial for several countries and institutions to come together and work jointly to achieve the common objective of sustainably managing European forests.

At the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Vienna in 2003, the first monitoring report on the implementation of commitments derived from the process of forest protection and sustainable forest management was presented in line with the commitment made at the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) of October 2001. Since then, both the 5th Ministerial Conference held on November 2007 in Warsaw and the Ministerial Conference in Oslo in June 2011 had a specific publication to provide information on the action taken and the experience gained by the different countries and organisations in relation to the commitments adopted in previous FOREST EUROPE ministerial conferences.

The ministerial conference held in Oslo in 2011 adopted the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 and the Oslo mandate for negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. In March 2013 the ELM adopted an updated work programme as a pan-European follow-up to the Oslo conference. This report shows the extent to which the countries are meeting the commitments set out in these agreements and the regional approach to meeting these commitments as part of the work programme.

It also sets out the work done by international coordinators and some success stories shared by countries on the implementation of commitments adopted in previous resolutions, decisions, declarations and statements. There are important lessons to be learnt from these success stories.

It is essential to report on what has been done and how in order to meet European political commitments on forests. Among other publications, this report will serve as background information for political discussions and responses on current and future opportunities and challenges.

This report could not have been produced without the information provided by countries and organisations. I would like to thank all country correspondents, international organisations and experts for the work they have done. This document would have been impossible without their participation. Thank you very much.

Head of the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Maria Tourné Whyte

1 “FOREST EUROPE” replaced the abbreviation “MCPFE” as the brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
“Trees and plants are our allies. We will be free if we learn from them”

Vandana Shiva
Philosopher and writer, Right Livelihood Award
The Oslo FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held on 14-16 June 2011 adopted two important decisions: the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 and the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (See Annexes).

In order to put the Oslo decisions into action, a FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting (ELM) held in Madrid on 14-15 February 2012 adopted the FOREST EUROPE work programme and an updated work programme was adopted at the ELM on 6-7 March 2013 in Madrid. The work programme was developed to promote successful implementation of the shared vision for forests in Europe and the related goals and 2020 targets for European forests and to support negotiations for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe as mandated, addressing the priority joint European actions identified in the Oslo decisions.

It is important to highlight that 19 resolutions have been adopted at the previous five Ministerial Conferences since 1990. However, in the last one an important change was made: the usual commitments evolved in the form of goals for European forests (in support of the shared vision) and targets for 2020 (in support with the shared vision and established goals). The goals and targets in the context of the vision and mission are listed in the tables below as extracted from paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020.

“Vision for forests in Europe” and “Mission of FOREST EUROPE” (Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020)

**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.

**MISSION**
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.
### GOALS FOR EUROPEAN FORESTS

| 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

| 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 socioeconomic 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 |
This report sets out the national degree of compliance and the regional approach to implementing the Oslo commitments, along with a review of the implementation of previous commitments.

The structure of the report is similar to previous editions and focuses on National and Pan-European implementation of the Oslo Ministerial commitments in the 2011-2015 period. It also comprises a review of the level of implementation of previous commitments through international coordinators and a new section with a description of national success stories derived from the implementation of previous decisions and resolutions.

Concerning national implementation of the Oslo commitments (chapter 3), two main departures from previous reports can be highlighted: the nature of the commitments and the structure of the chapter.

The commitments adopted in Oslo are elaborated in a set of goals and targets in a framework of implementation until 2020. With this approach, the current report on the implementation of these commitments through 2011-2015 provides an insight into the main policies and measures so far adopted by countries in order to achieve the adopted goals for the European Forest and European 2020 Targets. On the other hand, given the amount of goals and targets, the chapter is structured as a summary of national implementation of the commitments, presenting examples from particular countries extracted from their responses to national questionnaires.

With regard to the new content of the report, chapter 4 contains a section with a description of some success stories as examples of action carried out by countries in their implementation of previous FOREST EUROPE commitments.


The latter report directly follows up of the FOREST EUROPE work programme and sets out a mid-term assessment of the level of compliance with the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets at the regional level.

Joint consideration of the information provided in both reports provides a comprehensive view of national level implementation and a regional assessment of achievements under the 8 Goals and 9 Targets adopted in the Oslo Ministerial Decision.
“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree”

Martin Luther King
Leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement

3.1 Introduction

This chapter includes a summary of the national implementation of the latest FOREST EUROPE commitments from the last Oslo Ministerial Conference during the period from 2011 to 2015.

Taking into account that the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 provides a framework for action until 2020 to achieve a common vision, this chapter contains a summary of key policies, measures and actions implemented so far by countries to achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets that were agreed upon in order to fulfil this vision.

The information provided by the countries was collected through an online consultation initiative carried out by the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit. To this end, a specific questionnaire was prepared entitled National reporting on the measures taken by countries regarding the compliance of the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020. This questionnaire (referred to below as the Specific Questionnaire) was sent to correspondents to provide information about the actions, activities and measures implemented by countries to ensure compliance with the Oslo Ministerial Decision.

This questionnaire was intended to supplement the information included in the questionnaire for Reporting on the Pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (referred to below as the Qualitative Questionnaire) previously disseminated to collect the basic information required for preparing the State of Europe’s Forest 2015 report, to be used to fill in the Specific Questionnaire. This questionnaire gathers information on the major changes reported by countries since 2011.

The information in both questionnaires was the basis for monitoring the general background on policies, measures and actions implemented so far by countries to achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets.

Sixteen countries responded to the Specific Questionnaire and agreed to the use of the information entered in the Qualitative Indicators Questionnaire sent out previously. Furthermore, Finland pointed out that the information on the implementation of the Oslo commitments was set out in full in the Qualitative Indicators Questionnaire. Accordingly a total of 17 countries were involved in the study of the national implementation of commitments 2011-2015.

Responses are summarised for 16 respondent countries for the Specific Questionnaire and 17 respondent countries for the Qualitative Questionnaire.

The European Commission also stated that the information provided in the Qualitative Indicators Questionnaire identifies the relevant political initiatives contributing to the Oslo commitments. In the summary of national implementation of the Oslo commitments, the answers provided by the European Union (EU) as a signatory to the process and a regional economic integration organisation have only been presented as examples of implementation.

The following map shows the geographical coverage of the study (Austria, Belgium (Wallonia region), Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain and Turkey).
For each objective and target, the information included from the countries in the questionnaire pertains to each one of the five pan-European qualitative A indicators:

- A1. National Forest Programme or similar and related forest policies
- A2. Institutional frameworks
- A3. Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments
- A4. Financial instruments/economic policy
- A5. Informational means

The chapter synthesises the overall implementation situation, summarising key policies, measures and actions taken by countries to achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets. The information was organised through a complex study of the information described above.

In addition to the summary, some examples of specific information provided by the countries have been highlighted. This information was extracted directly from the questionnaires received and is set out in boxes.
3.2 National implementation of the Oslo Vision for forests in Europe.

Summary of key policies, measures and action taken by signatories achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets

GOAL I: Sustainable management of all European forests ensures multiple forest functions and enhances lasting provision of goods and services

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories for the sustainable management of all European forests to ensure multiple forest functions and enhance lasting provision of goods and services are as follows (information derived from the Specific Questionnaire):

Regarding forest policies reflecting sustainable management, the majority of the reporting countries (13 out of 16) answered that they have a National Forestry Policy (National/Regional Forest Programme or equivalent - NFP, a National Forest Strategy - NFS, etc.). Only 3 countries do not have a formal initiative, but are in a drafting/preliminary study stage.

In relation to their institutional frameworks, all countries have an administrative organisation to regulate forest management (ministries, agencies, etc.). Moreover, special institutions have been developed for specific purposes in some cases. For example, Cyprus has created a Forest Advisory Body providing a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on all issues related to forests. Spain is amending its forestry legislation to create a new body for participation in forest policy called the National Council of Forests.

Concerning the legal and regulatory framework, most of the countries (14 out of 16) identified a consolidated regulatory framework currently in force (laws, acts, decrees, regulations, etc.). Some of them refer to the FOREST EUROPE criteria for sustainable forest management and several international commitments. Two countries (Germany and Spain) also described their related sub-national regulations and three other countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Estonia) stated that they have reviewed and updated their forestry legislation since 2011. For example, the Estonian Forestry Act, the main legal document regulating the multiple use of forest land, was updated in 2013 to facilitate the sustainable use of wood and non-wood goods and services.

The Austrian Forest Dialogue is a well-established participatory policy development process structured according to the Pan-European Criteria for sustainable forest management and addressing key issues under FOREST EUROPE resolutions and declarations. This dialogue is currently leading up to the drafting of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020. www.walldialog.at


Multiple and efficient use of forests is a guiding objective of the Estonian Forestry Development Plan until 2020.

The German document entitled Forest Strategy 2020: Sustainable Forest Management: An Opportunity and a Challenge for Society was launched in 2011. A Federal Forest Inventory is conducted every 10 years, to analyse and assess forest development (the last inventory was for 2012).
With regard to financial instruments, differing scenarios relate to forest management and countries use various financing methods. Specific sources of funding have been incorporated with regard to the profitability of wood and other forest products, such as gift taxes, subsidies and fees for forest ecosystem services. Bulgaria, for example, has approved an exemption from inheritance and gift taxes for the value of standing trees. Croatia has introduced fees for forest ecosystem services by law. Spain stated that in European Union rural development policy (programming period 2014-2020), the European agricultural fund for rural development includes important forestry-related measures.

With reference to means of information, examples of the different country outreach and information distribution methods on sustainable forest management and the multifunctionality of forests include forestry reports, forestry information on green reports, the use of PEFC certification as an additional forest management instrument, forestry guidelines, environmental information, publications related to forest goods and forest information systems. Most of the countries (14 out of 16) specified and described the means of information they used and the other two countries stated their availability to provide information services in general terms.

Examples of different initiatives developed by countries include:

**Reports**
The Austrian Forest Report in its latest issue released in March 2015 sets out information on all pan-European criteria and sustainable forest management indicators and on one additional Austria-specific criterion (Austria’s international responsibility for sustainable forest management), along with 35 additional Austria-specific quantitative indicators.

**Geographical Information System**
In Estonia, a Forest Register GIS containing various stand-level data has been developed and is now in use. The forest inventory is publicly supported. Most of the Forest Register data are publicly available.

**Environmental education**
An increasing number of forest education centres for children and adults are established all over Germany; a forest education handbook promoting sustainable forest management has been updated and translated into Chinese.

**Information campaign**
By 2014, Hungary developed an information campaign on forestry measures of rural development programme 2014-2020.
GOAL 2: European forests must contribute to a green economy, including through increased provision of wood, other forest products and ecosystem services from sustainable sources.

The main policies, actions and measures developed by signatories regarding the contribution of European forests to a green economy such as the increase in the provision of wood and of other forest products and ecosystem services from sustainable sources (with information from the Specific Questionnaire) are as follows:

Forest policies, national forest strategies, national forest programmes and similar initiatives or forest management plans are drafted for these purposes in most of the reporting countries. Increasing the profitability of forest products is one of the aspects considered. Out of 16 countries, 13 provided details of initiatives on this line of work.

Some countries described specific action regarding the green economy. Germany, for example, has a national Biomass Action Plan promoting forest products in addition to its National Sustainability Strategy. Spain has developed its national forest programme through a new plan to promote economic activity and the social aspects of forestry, a Plan for Socioeconomic Activation for the Forest Sector (2014). In Estonia the forest sector is considered as the main branch of the green economy.

In accordance with the Forest Law (2011), a Regulation for valuation of the forest ecosystem services is under preparation in Bulgaria.

In Turkey, legal regulations to establish private hunting grounds in forest ecosystems have been improved. In addition, regulations on renting premises and amenities under concession in national parks, urban forests and recreation areas to private entities have been improved and liberalised.

The Croatian Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and offers various opportunities for developing forestry on the principles of sustainable management in rural areas in Croatia.

The Estonian National Forest Programme covers all sustainable forest management criteria and aspects of the forestry sector to be developed until 2020. The forestry sector is considered as the main branch of the green economy in Estonia.

In Turkey, legal regulations to establish private hunting grounds in forest ecosystems have been improved. In addition, regulations on renting premises and amenities under concession in national parks, urban forests and recreation areas to private entities have been improved and liberalised.

In relation to institutional frameworks, half of the countries (8 of 16) reported information regarding the contribution of European forests to the green economy. Recent works on biomass products (Germany) and the development of a Bio-Economy Strategy (Austria) are interesting examples.

Important forestry measures included in the European agricultural fund for rural development related to the rural development policy of the European Union (programming period 2014 – 2020) were also emphasised.

In accordance with the Forest Law (2011), a Regulation for valuation of the forest ecosystem services is under preparation in Bulgaria.

The Austrian Programme for Rural Development content several measures to foster green economy in relation to the forest sector, encompassing increased provision of wood, other forest products and ecosystem services.

Public funds are available for productive environmental investments and non-wood use of forests in Estonia.

In relation to institutional frameworks, half of the countries (8 of 16) reported information regarding the contribution of European forests to the green economy. Recent works on biomass products (Germany) and the development of a Bio-Economy Strategy (Austria) are interesting examples.

With regard to means of information, many types of initiatives have been developed and implemented by the reporting countries such as an international workshop on the role of forests in the Bio-Economy (Austria), studies with universities on ecosystem services (Wallonia in Belgium), communications on ecosystem services (Germany), information campaigns in Hungary and Luxembourg, a booklet on the forest sector socioeconomic activation plan (Spain), database management Systems (Turkey), and in Bulgaria, the Government is working jointly with NGOs on means of information.

Nine of the sixteen reporting countries provided specific information on their legal and regulatory framework. The information focuses on references to forestry acts, national forest strategies or other legal regulations. Regarding international commitments and considerations, the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was also highlighted.

Executive Forest Agency took part in several round tables for promotion and exchange of information in relation to the ecosystem services, organized by WWF together with the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters. There, the process of elaboration of the Regulation for valuation of the forest ecosystem services was presented.
GOAL 3: 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.

The main policies and measures embraced by signatories in order to adapt the forest management in Europe to changes in climate and for forests to become healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats such as forest fires, and as well as to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests, are as follows:

In relation to forest policies (information both from the Specific Questionnaire and the Qualitative Questionnaire), the main actions, measures and objectives placed have been:

- To adapt forest management in Europe to changes in climate. 11 of the 16 reporting countries indicate that they have initiatives to adapt forest management to climate change.

The Program of measures for adaptation of the forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative effect of climate change on them has been adopted by the Minister of agriculture and food in May 2011. A third National Action plan for climate change 2013-2020 has been adopted to.

The German Forest Strategy 2020 and "Timber Chart" are addressed to use of timber in order to substitute other materials causing higher CO₂ emissions.

In France, a National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change is in place since 2011 and is currently under updating process. 5 strategic actions during the period 2011-2015 are defined: 1) to develop research, 2) to collect ecosystem data, 3) to improve forest and wood industry structure to adapt to climate change, 4) to protect biodiversity, and 5) to anticipate climate crisis.

- For forests to become healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats such as forest fires and to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests, 6 out of 16 countries detail several related initiatives or indicate that these matters are taken into account in their forest management tools.

- The majority of the reporting countries (13 out of 17) describe specifically stated objectives in relation to forest health and vitality in order for forests to become healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats.

1. Maintenance and improving the resistance of forests against abiotic and biotic risks (Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain).
2. Forest fire prevention (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Spain).
3. Atmospheric pollution – air/ozone layer protection (Croatia and Turkey).
4. Climate change mitigation (Croatia).
5. Prevent illegal logging/harvesting (Bulgaria).
6. Sound balance of requirements for forest protection, game stock density, pasture management and of private and public interests in forests, taking into account forest land-use planning (Austria, Czech Republic).
7. Improve forest condition monitoring (Czech Republic and Hungary), particularly focusing on invasive species (Slovakia).

Cyprus has two main objectives in the new forest policy: 1) to strengthen the forest fire protection system so as to face an increasing fire risk and reduce the number of fires, the mean annual burnt area and the average burnt area per fire. 2) to enhance systematic monitoring and assessment of all abiotic and biotic factors that influence all forest ecosystems, in order to maintain high ability of prompt and adequate response with the proper preventive or remedial measures.

The European Union adopted in 2013 "A new EU Forest Strategy for forests and the forest-based sector", which provides strategic orientations related to eight interlinked priority areas, plus the 2020 forest objective: "To ensure and demonstrate that all forests in the EU are managed according to sustainable forest management principles and that the EU’s contribution to promoting sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation at global level is strengthened". It incorporates considerations on increasing demands on forests, climate-change impacts (direct or not), globalisation and political changes. Type of changes: more holistic view of forests and the forest-based sector.

- The majority of reporting countries (15 out of 17) report specifically stated policy objectives in relation to production and use of wood, in order to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests.

Most of the countries referred to the aim to maintain, secure and increase sustainable wood supply and production from sustainable timber resources.

Note that when summarizing the Specific Questionnaire’s answers the number of countries referred is 16 and when summarizing the Qualitative Questionnaire’s answers are 17 (see 3.1. Introduction).
Most of the reporting countries (13 out of 17) account specifically stated policy objectives in relation to production and use of non-wood goods and services, in order to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests. Growing recognition of the values and benefits of the production and use of non-wood goods and services is observed among the countries. The most commonly reported objectives are:

1. To enhance/assess the valuation and marketing of forest non-wood goods and services and balance the different requirements on forests (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain).
2. To promote recreational services in forests (Bulgaria).
3. Sustainable use and maintenance of forest resources and non-wood goods and services (France and Turkey).
4. Establishment of conditions for sustainable and commercial utilization of the ecosystems services (Bulgaria and Croatia) or payment for environmental services/lease of forests (Czech Republic).
5. Preservation of the forest ecosystem and promotion of natural forest regeneration through strict and efficient hunting and game management (Germany and Hungary).
6. To promote entrepreneurship based on ecotourism and business based on processing of non-wood goods (Finland).

The Austrian National Forest Programme contents following measures: application of ecosystem-oriented silvicultural management methods (particularly adapted to specific site and stand conditions) in the framework of sustainable forest management (including appropriate planning and execution), maintaining and improving the resistance of forests against abiotic and biotic risks, sound balance of requirements for forest protection, game stock density, pasture management and of private and public interests in forests, taking into account forest land-use planning.

Croatia  Decision on the adoption of the Plan to protect air, the ozone layer and climate change mitigation in Croatia for the period 2013 to 2017 (OG 139/2013), new Regulation on monitoring of forest ecosystem damage (OG 76/13) that is a framework for developing low-carbon development strategies.

Spain  The NFP sets the target of reducing by 2032 the forest area affected by forest pests and diseases. The ratio between forest affected area and total forest area will be lower than 10%. As for forest fires, the NFP sets a target to be complied by 2032 as the ratio of forest burnt area and total forest area below 0.2%.

In Croatia, main objectives for production and use of wood (according to the National Forest Policy and Strategy) are:
1) High level of raw material utilisation; 2) Quality recognisable on the market; 3) High level of production of final products; 4) Compliance with the international standards.

Main policy objective related to the harvesting of wood (according to the National Forest Policy and Strategy) is an optimal management of all forest resources in co-operation with interested parties. This objective must be operationally realized by implementation of 4E (ecological, ergonomic, economic, energy) favourable technologies in forestry through strategic activities (see report). Consumption of energy from wood: to increase by 26 PJ until 2020, furniture production: to increase by 46% (2006) on 56% (end of 2010) in total wood industry production within/until 4 years.
The majority of reporting countries (14 out of 17) inform on specifically stated policy objectives in relation to protective forests and Other Wooded Land (OWL), in order to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests.

Most of the reporting countries focus on further strengthening/maintaining and enhancing the protective functions of the forests, with more focus on soil erosion and water quality and quantity (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Finland, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia and Turkey). Several of these countries, however, reported other specific objectives in relation to protective forests, e.g.:

1. Assessment of protective effects, causes of impairment, need for restoration and action (Austria).
2. Applying forest land use planning and area-related planning across sectors (Austria).
3. Raising the quality of life through protection and enhancement of social and cultural forest functions (Bulgaria).
4. Alleviate impacts of expected global climate change and extreme meteorological phenomena (Czech Republic).

Concerning institutional frameworks, the information gathered from both questionnaires refer mainly to institutions related to forest vitality and forest fires protection, finding almost no specific structures for adapting forest management to climate change.

This institutional framework is represented mainly by different ministries (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Employment and Economy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Environment, etc.) and state forest authorities (e.g. Forest Service, Forest Administration, etc.). And sometimes -forest management is reinforced by additional institutions and organizations. Several examples are:

- Austria: Federal Forest Office and district administrations.
- Belgium: the Walloon Observatory of Forest Health (OWSF) is in charge of collecting information and actions plans, such as crisis management in case of storms or forest fires.

In Turkey the Department of Forest Fire Fighting was restructured and the Department of Forest Fighting Harmful Agents, which is the Main Service Unit executing the Forest Ecosystems Monitoring Programme providing data and information concerning forest health and vitality and also submitting the country level integrated reports based on some facts of the respective assessment aspects not only to define the severity of natural hazards but also climate change affecting forest ecosystems, was established under the General Directorate, and the International Forest Fire Training Centre in Antalya was established. The existing Climate Change Committee was restructured as Climate Change and Atmospheric Management Coordination Committee in 2013. One of the sub-groups of this committee is “Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry” and “Climate Change Adaptation”.

- Bulgaria: forest territories under state ownership are managed by 6 State Forest Enterprises with their own central administration, encompassing the territory of the whole country, including 165 State Forest and Hunting Units on a local level. Bulgaria have reinforced its institutional framework: the Bulgarian EFA has representatives in the Public Council on Climate attached to the Ministry of environment and waters.
- Germany: several “Forest and Timber Cluster” are established at different levels (mostly with a bureau at Länder or regional level), promoting the use of timber in construction and for energy.
- Spain: there is an institutional framework per policy area at national level. However, the Spanish regional governments (autonomous communities) are allowed to legislate the forest sector.

Finland mentioned objective: the quality of water protection in harvesting and soil preparation in regeneration sites will be excellent or good in 95% of the area by 2015.

Slovakia mentioned as objectives:
1) To preserve and improve protective forest functions.
2) To secure maximal function effectiveness of forests with prevailing protective functions mainly through the maintenance and improvement of their vitality and stability.
3) Creation of legal, technical and economic preconditions for active differentiated care concerning forest ecosystems in protected territories depending on their naturalness.
4) Preservation and in reasoned cases adequate improvement of biological diversity in commercial forests and in forests with prevailing ecological and social functions.
As a summary, the type of forest-related institutional arrangements that describe the general institutional framework is shown in the graphs below.

**Type of forest-related institutional arrangements**

- **Forest policy administration**
  - Legislative supervision and enforcement
  - Support to private forest management
  - Management of public forests

Regarding specific legal framework to become forests healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats such as forest fires and to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests, two national examples are mentioned: the legal framework in Estonia ensure vitality of forests; and in Greece the health and vitality of forests are also monitored on 100 permanent plots on annual basis (LIFE+ FutMon project and ICP).

The general characteristics of the legal and regulatory framework (from the Qualitative Questionnaire) that include the protection regulation, productive and protective functions of forests can be resumed as follows:

- 14 out of 17 respondents have detailed an approved Forest Law or Act:
  - Before 2000: Austria (amendment by 2013), Czech Republic (amendment by 2014), France (amendment by 2014), Finland (amendment by 2013) and Turkey (amendment by 2014); in 2003: Spain (amendment envisaged next 2015); in 2005: Croatia, Slovakia (amendment by 2014); in 2006: Portugal; in 2009: Hungary; in 2011: Bulgaria (amendment by 2014), in 2012: Cyprus, in 2014: Luxembourg and Greece.

- In 16 out of 17 reporting countries formal authority on forest matters is laid down in legislation enacted by parliament.

- In 4 countries forest matters are also covered in their constitution.

- In 11 of 17 respondents, the formal authority on main forest matters is at the central government level.

In most of the countries in this legal/regulatory framework are specific references to FOREST EUROPE instruments that comprises the considerations and terms referred to this Goal. The overall situation is described in the table below.

**Number of countries that includes explicit references to FOREST EUROPE instruments in the main forest legal/regulatory instruments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREST EUROPE C&amp;I for SFM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other FOREST EUROPE instruments</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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As a sub-regional approach, the new EU Forest Strategy has explicit references to FOREST EUROPE definition of SFM and to the Criteria and Indicators for SFM.
About the financial and economic instruments, nine countries detail, in the Specific Questionnaire, the use of specific financial instruments as funds and subsidies to forest management and combating climate change and maintain healthy, productive and protective functions of forests. Five examples of these instruments are:

- **Cyprus**: the new forest measure of the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) envisages financial support for improving the resilience of forests against climate change.

- **Czech Republic**: Subsidies for Improving the composition of forest (increased amount of soil to improve and ameliorate tree species, which should increase the resilience of forests to climate change) (EU Rural development programme).

- **Germany**: detailed subsidies for energy systems (e.g. heating for buildings) based on wood.

- **Portugal**: the rural development program includes financial support to measures identified in the document “adaptation of forests to climate change”. Under the EEA (European Economic Area) Grants program there was a selection of projects on adaptation to climate change, some of which related to forests, for instance there is a project getting support (AdaptForChange) that aim to improve the success of afforestation in arid and semi-arid situations, on a climate change scenario, where an analysis is carried out on the causes of failure/success of 60 years of afforestation projects.

- **Turkey**: financial sources for various protective measures as forest fire prevention and combating, integrated pest management, all measures to struggle against biotic and abiotic agents, whether or not they are human induced or natural hazards, including also overgrazing, illegal cutting and encroachment as well as fulfilling productive functions of forest ecosystems are provided to Turkish Forest Service through the annually allocated government budget system.

In a general approach, based on the information derived from the Qualitative Questionnaire, the main financial sources for the management of forests and therefore the maintenance of the forest functions are organized by reporting countries as follows.

The financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management is:

- **Profit/financially self-sufficient forest management**: 8 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, German, Hungary, Spain, and Turkey.

- **Additional financial support from government to forest management**: 10 countries: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

**Financial arrangements in state-owned forests**

Number of countries with profit/financially self-sufficient forest management: 8

Number of countries with additional financial support from government to forest management: 10

*Please note that three countries (Czech Republic, Spain and Turkey), have detailed that they use both types of financial arrangements.

The general financial instruments for private forests and their management are:

**Number of countries with Grants/subsidies: 11**

The most frequently reported financial instrument used are grants/subsidies, which are mainly provided for: NATURA 2000 sites (Belgium and Hungary), ecosystem services (Croatia), private forest owners (Czech Republic and Finland), afforestation (Hungary), forest infrastructure (France), forestry treatments, investments and other as forest management plans, national parks, forest fire protection, conservation measures against bark beetles etc. (Slovakia). The national Rural Development Programmes co-financed by the EU provide support to private forest management through subsidies in some of the countries (e.g. Austria and Hungary).

**Number of countries with Tax measures: 6**

Six countries use tax measures (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain) for e.g. Reduction/exemption of/from land/forest taxes to encourage/provide incentives to forest owners. In Czech Republic forests (in specific conditions according to Forest act) are exempted from paying land tax.

**Number of countries with incentives: 3**

A few countries stated incentives in the form of EU RDP (Rural Development Programme) subsidies (Austria), free plants, technical advice etc. for greening private lands (Cyprus) and tax incentives (Spain).

**Number of countries with public funds: 4**

4 countries out of 17 (Austria, Hungary, Portugal and Spain) reported on the existence of national public funds, which provide support. For example, the Austrian Catastrophe Fund offer measures to restore and maintain protective functions of forests.

**Number of countries with Investment support: 2**

Only 2 countries (Austria and Spain) reported on possible investment support instruments.

**Number of countries with loans: 2**

Two countries described the use of loans (Finland and France). In Finland, only marginal amounts of loans are granted to private forest owners; in France loans are used for investment for modernization of sawmills.
Number of countries with other financial instruments: 4

Four countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Spain and Turkey) reported other financial instruments used for private forest management. The most frequently reported is the provision of technical and management support to forest owners, e.g. consultation of non-state forest owners, forest entrepreneurs, practicing foresters, training of mayors of towns and villages, owners and experts from the municipal forest structures (Bulgaria), provision of services to forest owners -liming, airborne fire control service, large-scale measures for forest protection, consultancy (Czech Republic). Other countries referred to agreements with banks social works (Spain) and forest-like measures and state aid provided by regional governments (Portugal).

Financial arrangements in state-owned forests

The European Union states as general financial instruments the New Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Rural Development Regulation, Structural funds, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, and the LIFE+ funding programme. The main changes relating to Horizon 2020, increased budget overall, programme open for wide participation, introduction of new instruments (e.g. JTI BBI, ERANET Co-fund, etc.), challenge-based and non-prescriptive calls, more emphasis on innovation and marketable solutions, simplification in project management, etc.

Regarding specific instruments relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, the European Union lists Council Directives and Regulations, in particular two new provisions in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 regarding: 1) monitoring of quarantine pests in forest areas; and 2) financial compensation of forest owners for the value of the destroyed forest material, as a consequence of quarantine pests (to apply from 01/01/2017 onwards).

In relation to the informative means, the information from the Specific questionnaire reveals several examples of the type of communications means for forest health and productive and protective functions, examples such as for forest fire campaigns and for the use of timber in construction and house building. However, only four countries offer specific information on adaptation of forest management to climate change.

Guidelines on the adaptation of forest management to climate change in Greece have been published. A workshop has taken place to inform Forest officers about the adaptation of forest management to climate change in Greece. Websites are important media for informational means. Bulgaria (http://www.iag.bg/docs/lang/en/5/index) and Spain (http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/temas/impactos-vulnerabilidad-y-adaptacion/sector_forestal/documento_completo_tcm71854658pdf) detailed websites.

The overall situation on communication and sharing information on sustainable forest management comes from Qualitative questionnaire information. There it states public access to forest inventory data on 16 countries, the forest-related outreach and communication written strategies on 10 countries and that 13 of the 17 reporting countries have national reports on the status of sustainable forest management. More detailed information is contained under Target 2. (See Target 2)

Besides, several countries reported specific informative instruments in relation to forest health and vitality. The information system for the forest health and vitality (Bulgaria), the establishment of a new information website (Croatia), more emphasis on prevention concerning nature management methods (Hungary), and establishment of a Forest Fire Unit (Spain), are remarkable examples.

In order to maintain the productive and protective functions of forests, countries reported.

- On production and use of wood, countries highlight several informative means related to the implementation of the EUTR (European Union Trade Regulation) at a national level: Usage of Social Media since the IYF 2011 (International Year of Forests 2011) in order to reach a broader audience (Austria), Central register of due diligence systems (Czech Republic), more information on sustainable forest management and on the advantages of wood products in the media (Hungary), establishment of registry of forest managers (Slovakia).

- Regarding production and use of non-wood goods and services, also social media used (Austria). Turkey has reported on the establishment of a non-wood good and services database.

- Besides the use Social Media (Austria) since the IYF 2011 in order to reach a broader audience (e.g. youth), new websites have been enhanced/developed in relation to protective functions of the forests (Spain) and forestry GIS (Slovakia).
GOAL 4:
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.

The main policies and measures adopted by signatories in order to minimise Europe’s ecological footprint without harming the global carbon balance through the potential of European forests to mitigate climate change, carbon sequestration in trees and soils, carbon storage in forest products and substitution of non-renewable materials and energy sources (with information derived from the Specific Questionnaire), are:

In respect to forest policies, most of the countries that answered the questionnaire (12 of 16 countries) describe specific measures regarding this goal. Some of the examples provided are in the related box.

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In relation to climate change mitigation the Austrian Forest Programme states the following among stakeholders’ agreed principles:

- Best-possible mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, in particular those from fossil fuel sources.
- Promotion of renewable and locally produced energy sources, raw materials and products.

Connected to these principles are the following goals: increased utilisation of wood as a renewable raw material (material and energetic use) – best possible substitution of fossil fuels; expansion of forest areas in regions with low forest cover and; increased use and enlarged possibilities for the use of wood (long-living wood products), and assessment of possible accountability of carbon stocks in wood products.


**Cyprus**. There is a clearly defined objective in the new Forest Policy for enhancing carbon sinks in forest biomass, forest soils and wood products so as the carbon balance is always positive.

**Czech Republic**. The NFP II Key action 4 sets: promote and foster the use of forest biomass for energy generation.

**Estonia**. The role of forests in mitigating climate change and substitution function of wood is stressed in the NFP. The contribution of wood as a renewable source of energy is taken into account in the 2030 Estonian Energy Development Programme.

**Portugal**. The updated National Forest Strategy (February, 2015) dedicates appropriate attention to this issue, with particular relevance to forest biomass; related strategic and specific objectives are foreseen as well as targets.

**Slovakia**. Strategic Objective 4, Priority 12: To support the use of forest biomass to produce energy.

**Spain**. The mentioned Plan for the socioeconomic activation of forest sector includes, as a priority, the enforcement of forest biomass protection. This plan also includes measures to promote timber products consumption.

**Turkey**. The “Strategic Goal and Targets” of the DG Forestry Strategic Plan (2013-2017) defines the priority aspects of forestry with special account on the carbon balance being maintained in forest ecosystems to help mitigate climate change.
In relation to institutional frameworks, due to the close relationship of climate change with energy, several countries express the involvement of energy ministries or agencies on it. Bulgaria detailed, for example, that Ministry of Economy and Energy and the Agency on Energy Effectiveness are the leading institutions for implementation of the national energy policy. It also mentions other specific organizational situations based in working groups or similar associations. For example, in Turkey, the established “Climate Change Coordination Board (İDEK) and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Working Group” and “Forestry and Water Management: Forestry and Water Council” can be considered as part of the institutional background.

In regards to the legal and regulatory frameworks, generally, it is closely linked to the renewable energy ones, as happens in Bulgaria (Law on energy effectiveness, latest amendment SG 33/11.04.2014 and Law on energy for renewable sources, latest amendment, SG 33/11.04.2014).

Regarding international commitments, at sub-regional level it is worth to mention countries follow the related EU regulations as a base (translation of international commitments under the UNFCCC to EU context).

With respect to financial instruments, nine countries detail the use of means as funds and subsidies to achieve this goal. In Germany, for example, there are subsidies for energy systems (e.g. heating for buildings) based on wood. In Cyprus, Greece and Spain, funds are set in its Rural Development Programmes. On the other hand, in Bulgaria financial and regulatory measures are included in the National Action Plan towards encouragement and support for the use of energy from renewable energy sources.

Croatia is working in a framework for developing low-carbon development strategies (LEDS).

In Portugal, the revision of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2013-2016) (April 2013), which are the energy planning instruments, establish the way to achieve international targets and commitments concerning energy efficiency and the use of energy from renewable sources. These encompass measures related to the promotion of the use of energy from biomass, mainly forest biomass.

The European Union Decision No 529/2013/EU on accounting rules on greenhouse gas emissions and removals resulting from activities relating to land use, land-use change and forestry and on information concerning actions relating to those activities. Among the lessons learned: sustainably managed EU forests remain a sink (they capture more CO2 than they release) but this sink is expected to decrease sharply between the first (2008-2012) and second (2013-2020) commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Bulgarian regular reports related to the implementation of the National plan for energy effectiveness (Law on EE) and to the progress of Bulgaria in the use of energy from renewable sources are been uploaded on the website of the Sustainable Energy Development Agency (http://www.seea.government.bg/).

At sub-regional level can be mentioned the Climate Component of the European Union LIFE program, emphasizing nature based solutions and forests.

With regard to informative means, eight countries provide detailed comments about information processes set up to achieve this goal. Information campaigns and websites are assigned for this task. It takes into account that some of these informative means (reports, campaigns, etc.) are launched by other institutions, such as energy ministries.
GOAL 5: The loss of forest biodiversity in Europe is halted and degraded forests are restored or rehabilitated

The main policies and measures adopted by signatories in order to halt the loss of forest biodiversity in Europe and restore or rehabilitate the degraded forests are as follows:

In relation to forest policies, with information extracted from the Specific Questionnaire, the majority of the reporting countries (13 out of 16) point out several initiatives to halt the loss of forest biodiversity and restore degraded forest contained in different policy instruments as:

- In National Forest Programmes or similar: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, and Hungary.
- In Rural Development Programmes: Croatia and Spain.
- Other instruments: Bulgaria (National plan for the protection of wetlands and National action priority framework for Natura2000), Luxembourg (Nature protection Action Plan), Portugal (Legal Regime of Afforestation and Reforestation, which is now part of the set of national instruments that integrate the NFP) and Spain (National Action Plan Against Desertification includes forest fires as a threat by causing soil loss and devaluation).

In other countries (Slovakia and Estonia, for example), forest degradation is regarded as a minor issue and as such is not covered at policy level.

Based on the information derived from the main changes since 2011 reported by countries in the Qualitative questionnaire, most of the reporting signatories (14 out of 17) relate specifically to policy objectives stated in relation to maintaining and enhancing forest biodiversity. Some examples of these objectives are:

1. To increase forest protected areas / designate new forest reserves (Belgium) by implementing Natura 2000 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia); protect as total forest reserve (class 1.1) 5% of public forests (Luxembourg).

2. Introduction of Natura 2000 payments on 120,000 hectares to improve the management of privately owned Natura 2000 forests (Hungary).

3. Orientation of forest management according to the potentially natural forest community while safeguarding the stability of the forest ecosystem concerned (Austria); improvement of forest management practices (e.g. linkages between biodiversity and forest management in Germany); planning and implementation of activities (Bulgaria); or the creation of legal, technical and economic preconditions for active differentiated care about forest ecosystems in protected territories in dependence on their naturalness (Slovakia).

4. Preserving and enhancing rare and endangered species and responsible treatment of invasive alien species (Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic and Finland).

5. Protection of forest genetic resources (Bulgaria).

The Croatian Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015 and offers different opportunities for developing forestry on the principles of sustainable management on rural areas in Croatia. Croatian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (still in the process of being approved by EC) offers through Measure 8 - “Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests” broad scope of activities to protect and enrich biodiversity in forests.

The European Union states as its policy objectives concerning biodiversity and restoration:

- Halt the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, forest management plans or equivalent instruments, which are required for holdings above certain size, determined by EU Member States, to be eligible for financial support under the Rural Development Regulation, to (a) improve conservation status of 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the EU Habitats Directive, and to (b) secure or improve the status of 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive (EU Biodiversity Strategy).

- Long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats (Habitats and Birds Directives, Natura 2000 Network).

- Restoration of at least 15% of degraded EU ecosystems (7th Environmental Action Programme of the EU), and halt global forest cover loss by 2030 at the latest (Communication of the European Commission on deforestation and forest degradation).
6. To preserve/enhance biodiversity and ensure management based on the principles of economic sustainability, social responsibility and ecological acceptability (Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic and Germany).

7. Integration of biodiversity conservation into forest development and forest management plans (Turkey).

8. Biodiversity monitoring/inventory (Austria, Turkey).

Concerning the institutional frameworks, with information from the Specific Questionnaire, responsibility mainly lies on forest or environment administration, sometimes reinforced by additional committees. For example, in Austria, nature conservation is competency of the provincial governments. In Bulgaria, the Ministry of Environment and Waters is the leading institution, implementing the national policy for environmental protection and by 2012, the National Council on biological diversity was established.

Spain has State administration, Regional Governments (Autonomous communities) and several Coordination committees (State and regional governments). Forest Fire Fighting Committee and Plant Healthy Committee. The Turkey Forest Research Institute, in close cooperation with the DGF Department of Forest Fighting Harmful Agents, which conducts monitoring of the ground vegetation and biodiversity on the permanent plots installed within the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Programme framework.

In the Czech Republic the National programme for protection and reproduction of forest tree species gene pool as part of a Forest reproductive material legislation that was enacted.

Germany has set legal restrictions and obligations in forest management of protective forests in order to maintain or restore their function (at Länder level, e.g. in alpine forests).

The European Union reports on the 7th Environmental Action Programme, the Natura 2000 Directives, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Forest Strategy, the EU Timber Regulation, the Regulation on Invasive Alien Species, the Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 on concerning compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation in the Union.

Concerning financial instruments, most of those described in Goal 3 cover also this goal. Also, from the Specific Questionnaire, with the aim of halting the loss of forest biodiversity, the EU Rural Development Programmes are the most utilised form for financing conservation and restoration of forests and include financial instruments as funds and subsidies. Belgium also points out to LIFE+ programs, as those that have been developed for the restoration of indigenous forests and ecosystems in peat soils and alluvial areas with financial incentives for public and private forest owners.

In reference to information means, the overall situation is summarized in Goal 3 and some detailed informative developed by countries that can be pointed out are:

- Bulgaria and Turkey have developed an Information system for the protected zones in Natura 2000 Network and Forest Information System.

- Belgium has published a guide for biodiversity in forest for private owners, in relation with mandatory measures in public forests.

- Germany has a communication and consulting of forest owners by forest administrations of Länder on rehabilitation of forests e.g. in alpine protective forests.

- Luxembourg has developed a web site with information on the promotion for different natural habitats, guidelines for Natura 2000 forest management. And for protection of animal species, Luxembourg has a web site (http://www.environnement.public.lu/forets/publications/Handlungsempf_Forst/index.html).

- In Spain the Biodiversity Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, has published in 2014 the “Technical Guide for the management of burned forests”.

- Germany has a legal and regulatory frameworks, the overall situation is also contained in previous goals. Some specific examples for this goal can be stressed as the Forest act of four countries has references to be considered in order to restore forests (Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain). In Austria, there are 9 provincial legal acts on nature conservation and regulation, protection and restoration of biodiversity. In Belgium, Bulgaria and Luxembourg, regimes for forest management under Natura 2000 have been adopted. And the Czech Republic has a National protection and reproduction programme for the forest tree species gene pool.
GOAL 6:
The role of forests in combating the progress of desertification is strengthened

The main policies and measures adopted by signatories in order to strengthen the role of the forest to avoid the progress of desertification are:

On related forest policies, Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain and Turkey are the four countries that point out specific action programmes against desertification.

- Portugal. National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCD) 2014-2020
- Spain. National Action Program to Combat Desertification and National Inventory of Soil Erosion (PAND)

In reference to the legal and regulatory frameworks and international commitments, in Bulgaria, Portugal and Spain, the National Action Programmes are framed in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Turkey has a regulatory framework based on the National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilisation Law.

Regarding financial instruments, it is highlighted that budget resources, European Union ones and international programs may be used. A specific example was shared from Bulgaria, where the National Action Program for Sustainable Land Management and Combating Desertification has been elaborated under a joint project of MOEW (Ministry of Environment and Water) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the Bulgarian Government.

Regarding informative means, Portugal updated that the Portuguese National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCD) has been widely disseminated; moreover, in its preparation active participation of interested parties (public and private) has been registered. And Bulgaria has detailed the MOEW’s webpage http://www.moew.government.bg/?show=top&cid=17.
GOAL 7: 
Socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests are optimised

The main policies and measures adopted by signatories in order to optimize the socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests, are:

Concerning related forest policies, besides those contained in Goal 3 regarding the production and use of wood and the production and use of non-wood goods and services, and based on the information of both questionnaires, there are a range of policies, objectives and actions developed for countries in order to optimize the socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests.

Some specific policy instruments that countries have highlighted to cover the considerations placed on this Goal, are:

- In France, the NFP is under the drafting process. A specific group has been settled to implement SFM through participatory process and define specific demands relating to SFM. This group has defined a new emerging issue: to collect and share data about environmental and social services.

- In Turkey, the Strategic Plan (2013-2017) of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs include that through the hunting grounds and better wildlife management, forests assigned to honey production, fishing, ecotourism, fuel wood supply at subsidised prices and some rural development programmes, and forestry activities: harvesting, reforestation, rehabilitation, and suchlike preferably employing local people. Due to this the livelihoods of forest-dependent people has also improved.

In Belgium, the Forest Decree considers that the share between conifers and broadleaves should remain the same (around 50% of each), as conifers are very important to maintain the economic viability of forests.

The objective for Finland is to maintain profits in private forestry at no less than 110 euro/ha; the increase of the value of forest and wood products industry production by 20%, and the increase of the value of forest and wood products industry exports by 20%.

The majority of the reporting countries (13 out of 17) report specifically stated policy objectives for economic viability in relation to land use and forest area. The most frequently reported objectives are centred on:

1. Securing and increasing income sources, optimization of the whole wood supply chain and cooperation between forest owner associations (Austria).

2. Maintenance/increase of the economic viability and competitiveness of the forest sector (Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain), taking into account ecological and social requirements.

3. Encouragement of employment and entrepreneurship in the forests and improvement the quality of professional qualification of the workers in the forest sector (Bulgaria, Germany).

4. Forest certification (Bulgaria).

5. Enhance valuation and marketing of forest wood and non-wood benefits and services (Croatia, Czech Republic and Finland).

6. Optimization of the structure and quantitative composition of forest enterprises (Germany).

For employment, anew, most of the reporting countries (13 out of 17) inform on specifically stated policy objectives. The most commonly mentioned objectives relate to one or more of the following:

1. Increase/maintain employment in the forest sector (Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey), particularly in the context of rural development (Cyprus and Czech Republic); wood-based industries (Austria) and ecotourism (Croatia, Finland).

2. Improve working conditions/quality (Croatia and Slovakia) and ensure safety and health (Turkey), meanwhile others focus on improving forest labour qualifications/skill (Bulgaria and Portugal).

National Forestry Policy and Strategy (OG 120/03) of Croatia recognizes a great and unused potential for new jobs linked on the general benefit forest functions, especially on tourism; to improve work quality.
The majority of reporting countries (13 out of 17) set state specific objectives in relation to research, training and education, such as:

1. Promoting research and strengthening research capacities, and promote technology development (Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Turkey).

2. Continuous/active support for forest education and training (Cyprus, Finland and Slovakia).

3. Strengthening modern knowledge management (monitoring, data management, research, education and vocational training, public relations etc.) and illustrating the historical and present concepts of sustainability, in particular with regard to forest education and public relations (Austria).

4. Better integration of human resources management, decision making, marketing and public relations to education (Hungary).

Eleven of the seventeen reporting countries inform on specifically stated policy objectives in relation to cultural and spiritual values. The most frequently reported objectives include:

1. Innovative management of traditional and historical knowledge in forestry also including social and cultural aspects of sustainable forest management (Austria).

2. Preservation and maintenance/enhancement of cultural services and sites of cultural interest in forest area (Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary and Slovakia).

3. Development and management of the tourist activities (Bulgaria, Slovakia and Turkey).

4. Completing inventories on the cultural heritage sites (Finland, Cyprus).

5. Encourage the recreational use of forest areas as well as the influence of forest into other sectors (Spain and Turkey).

In Cyprus the main objective is to identify, map and classify all sites of cultural interest in forest area or which are related to forests.

In Finland some of the objectives are: strengthening the aspects of forests that promote human welfare and culture (completing inventories on cultural heritage sites located in State-owned forests and launching inventories in private forests), promoting a positive relationship to nature among children and young people as well as educators and teachers (increasing awareness), increasing the amount of time that Finns spend outdoors and engaged in different activities, maintaining a good quality and quantity of public hiking routes.

In Turkey the number of areas which using for Ecotourism and Recreation will be increased 12 to 25 until end of the 2017.

In relation to the institutional frameworks, the overall structure has already been described in Goal 3, represented mainly by different ministries (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Employment and Economy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Environment, etc.) and state forest authorities (e.g. Forest Service, Forest Administration, etc.). Sometimes forest management is reinforced by additional institutions and organizations as listed under Goal 3. A specific new reference was stressed by Turkey that detailed the establishment of a specific Department of Forest Village Relations under the General Directorate of Forestry.

In reference to the legal and regulatory frameworks and international commitments, Turkey refers to Forest Law, which includes regulations on rental concessions in national parks, urban forests and recreation areas, to establish private hunting grounds in forest ecosystems and the sale system of licenses on harvesting for private entities.

The countries members of the EU pointed out that acts for implementing EU FLEG and EU Timber Regulation are the legal basis for managing the socioeconomic and cultural benefits from those European forests.

Regarding the policy areas production and use of wood and the production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation, the information is described in Goal 3.

Concerning the other policy areas, on cultural and spiritual values it underlines that the main legal basis is mainly on general cultural and natural heritage legislation, forest law or other nature conservation laws/acts. In Bulgaria, the Law for
amendment and supplementation of the Law on Cultural Heritage provides changes related to protected territories and protected zones. And Hungary adopted by 2013 a regulation on the establishment of forest welfare facilities and rural development measures.

Regarding financial instruments, overall financial instruments to optimize socioeconomic and cultural benefits for livelihoods, rural development and employment in European forest are described in Goal 3.

Cyprus and Czech Republic are the two countries that made direct references to theirs Rural Development Programmes as tools for financing. In Turkey, the new forest measure of the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) foresees financial support for the improvement of forest functions in order to enhance their contribution to villages within or adjacent to forests, (i.e. by providing employment), to preserve and enhance their cultural and spiritual values, etc.

Particularly, in reference to research, training and education, Bulgaria has implemented several projects under EU, the OPAC (Operational Programme Administrative Capacity), related to the enhancement of the qualification and competence of Executive Forest Agency (EFA) personnel at a central and regional level.

In respect to informative means, besides the information provided in Goal 3 relating to production and wood use and the production and use of non-wood goods and services, can be highlighted:

- For economic viability, the Usage of Social Media since IYF 2011 in order to reach a broader audience (e.g. youth), in Austria.
- For employment, in Bulgaria, Executive Forest Agency (EFA) information system has been improved with contact details, including the positions of all EFA personnel, including those working for State Hunting and Forest Enterprises. Other initiatives have been adopted in Hungary where it has further extended public work programs in the forest sector to include private forestry to public work programs that create more jobs in the sector.
- For research, training and education, at EFA Bulgaria it implements OPAC projects related to education and enhancement of the qualification of its personnel. In Croatia the “Croatian Forests” Ltd. have developed and implemented a program in primary schools ‘School in the forest, the forest in the school” that is an interdisciplinary manner of approaching the forest, life in the forest and the importance of sustainable forest management.
- For cultural and spiritual values, in Bulgaria the 11 Directorates of the Nature Parks that are within the structure of EFA have information centres in service of the tourists and the visitors of the respective parks. And in Hungary, cultural events, like “Music in the forest” program or participation on the “Night of museums” event with forest school programmes.

As a general means, Turkey describes its website as a tool for disseminating information regarding socio-economic and cultural benefits from forest.
GOAL 8: Illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories in order to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products, with information extracted from the Specific Questionnaire, are as follows.

In reference to forest policies, 10 reporting countries have developed specific actions to avoid illegal logging. Forest programmes, regulations, national legislation resulting from the transposition of EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) are mentioned as the main procedures. And Estonia highlights the exchange of information as an important tool to avoid the illegal logging.

Concerning the institutional frameworks, in 14 of the 16 countries responsibility on this matter lies on forest, environment and rural development administrations. Besides, a lot of countries have detailed specifics institutions or collaborative departments to collaborate in the implementation of the respective legal provisions. Some examples of this kind of organizations and institutions (not exhaustive) are:

- In Greece, two Programmes are implemented each year: The Programme for the Prevention of Illegal Logging with patrols from Forest Services and Forest Protection programme whose main objective is the protection of forests from all hazards (including illegal logging).
- In Spain, the National Plan for checking legality in the timber trade has been approved last February 2015 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.
- In Estonia, the National Forest Programme stresses the importance of development of electronic information exchange (Forest Register based e-forest notifications and e-waybills) to facilitate the use of forests and timber trade.
- In Austria, the Austrian Federal Office and Research Centre the District Forest Authorities are commissioned to implement the respective legal provisions.
- In Belgium, the Federal Public Service for Environment is in charge of the EU Timber Regulation in Belgium. Regional forests services have to control the legality of forest operations and trade of indigenous round wood products.
- In Germany, the Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber (Hamburg) for identifying timber and origin serving European companies and stakeholders. Organisation for monitoring all timber importing companies has been established (“Competent Authority” BLE).

Regarding legal and regulatory frameworks all sixteen countries that answered the questionnaire detail it. As regards international commitments, EU country members of the EU point out the implementation of the EU FLEGT regulation at national level (by regulations, forest laws, national acts for implementing the EUTR, contraband laws, etc.).

It is interesting to highlight other kinds of initiatives faces as Memorandum for cooperation between forest administration and custom departments. This situation is described by Bulgaria, between “EFTA” and “Customs Agency” to perform more effective control and planning checks related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) Nº 995/2010 and for obtaining information for the import of timber and timber products.

In implementing the EU FLEGT Regulation and the EU Timber Regulation the Austrian Timber Trade Monitoring/Controlling Act was issued in 2014.

In Belgium, the Federal Public Service for Environment is in charge of the EU Timber Regulation in Belgium. Regional forests services have to control the legality of forest operations and trade of indigenous round wood products.

The EU Timber Regulation is part of the European Union’s policy to fight illegal logging and associated trade, which was defined in 2003 under the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.
Concerning financial instruments, general and regular budget is the main source in the countries, and also the certification schemes are mentioned as one of the most important used instruments to this goals end. Germany has financed the Thünen Competence Centre on the Origin of Timber and international projects about identifying timber and origin of timber. In Greece, the programme for the Prevention of Illegal Logging is funded by the Green Fund while the Forest Protection Programme is funded by the Regular Budget.

It is interesting the economic policy carried out in Cyprus; in order to avoid illegal actions and partly satisfy the needs of local communities, especially after the economic crisis and the difficulties for disadvantaged households, the Department of Forests decided to provide more fuel wood for sale at a local level.

In reference to informative means, information campaigns from government bodies, sometimes aimed to local areas, are methods used in order to avoid illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products. Workshops, seminars, radio and TV programmes, articles and interviews in newspapers and magazines, and different ways of communication with stakeholders and general public are tools used by countries for this objective. Websites are among the main systems used to communicate the relevant information and messages.

The EFA (Bulgaria) introduced new service via its webpage to enhance the transparency in timber harvesting (www.iag.bg). This service gives the opportunity every harvesting site to be checked by the public if it is legal and what is the volume of the harvested timber. This year it is planned to be developed and introduced a system for issuing transportation tickets and electronic diary in the spots for trade and processing of timber, as well as software for issuing a transportation ticket via mobile device in the temporary warehouses.

Cyprus develops a huge information campaign for all stakeholders (importers, merchants, the general public etc.) on the provisions of EUTR and the relevant national Law.

In Estonia the information exchange in electronic format to facilitate the use of forests and timber trade has been developed, so, the information is available about logging and timber trade.

In Greece, posters regarding information on EUTR have been distributed to Forest Services.
Summary of key policies, measures and action taken by signatories achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets

TARGET 1: All European countries have developed and are implementing national forest programs, or its equivalent, in line with the shared vision and goals and the pan-European approach to national forest programs

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories in order to develop and implement national forest programs, or its equivalent, in line with the shared vision and goals and the pan-European approach to national forest programs, are:

Concerning the existence of National Forest Programmes (NFP) process or similar process and in line with the pan-European approach to national forest programs: about half of the reporting signatories (9 out of 17) report the formal NFP process, 4 countries report on process explicitly guided by FOREST EUROPE NFP principles and one country (Germany) reported similar processes.

Regarding the existence of forest policy document (other than law): nearly all reporting Signatories (16 out of 17) inform on the existence of forest policy document. Six countries report their main forest policy document to be titled as “policy” or as “strategy”, and similarly, seven countries report theirs as “programme”. Finally, 14 out of 17 countries provide internet links.

Existence of NPF or similar process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of countries</th>
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<td>Formal NFP process</td>
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The Estonian Forestry Development Plan until 2020 (NFP) was approved by the Parliament last 2011.

In France a new legislation on forest (October 2014) provides a legal basis to the next NFP, which will become the national framework programme for sub national forest programmes. Objectives and targets will be added and it will take into account the EU Forest Strategy.

For Turkey, in vast countries with diverse forest ecosystems by eco-regions national forest programmes should be developed in line with the forestry strategies drafted by the eco-regions besides in addressing emerging issues of forestry and needing active participation of concerning restructured organizations. In this sense, Turkey National Forestry Programme would also be developed. Today the Strategic Plan (2013-2017) of the Directorate General of Forestry (DGF) of the Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs is being implemented.

The European Union EU Forest Strategy aims at establishing a framework for forest-related actions in support of Sustainable Forest Management, based on the coordination of the forest policies of the Member States and EU policies and initiatives relevant to forests and forestry. Hence has an interest in assessing progress towards SFM. The Strategy asks the Commission, together with Member States and stakeholders, to identify “objective, ambitious and demonstrable sustainable forest management (SFM) criteria that can be applied in different policy contexts” regardless of the end use of forest biomass. Appropriate measures will be then presented by the Commission.

Regarding the commitment on developing and implementing the NFP or equivalent in line with the shared vision and goals, it can analyse following the question posed in the Qualitative Questionnaire “Is there explicit reference to FOREST EUROPE instruments in the main forest policy document?”, as such instruments are tools to implement the sustainable forest management and contained most of the terms of the Goals for European Forests. To this question the main answer is ‘Yes’, most of the countries have references to FOREST EUROPE instruments as can be seen in the graph below.

Countries with reference to FOREST EUROPE instruments in the main forest policy document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FE definition of SFM</th>
<th>FE criteria and indicators for SFM</th>
<th>FE guidelines for NFPs</th>
<th>FE classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land</th>
<th>FE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forests</th>
<th>FE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation</th>
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Regarding financial instruments, apart from the overall situation as shown in the goals, Croatia has highlighted that by implementing the first national Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, Croatian forestry sector (forestry, hunting and wood industry) has an opportunity to use at least 120 mil €, for developing forestry in rural areas and consequently double investments from national resources and EU funds.
The main policies, actions and measures developed by signatories in order to improve forest knowledge through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication are:

In relation to forest policies, the information gathered from filling out the Specific Questionnaire by countries, 6 of the 16 countries provide information about research activities in order to improve forest knowledge. Czech Republic and Estonia stresses the importance objective of Research & Development to develop the competitiveness of forest sector. In Germany, forest related education is addressed in the “Forest Strategy 2020”, promoting enhancement of environmental forest education and consumer education.

In Portugal, under the National Forest Strategy, there was an initiative to establish Centres of Competence for the main forest species, involving public administration, business community and research, in order to look at the areas where there are gaps in knowledge and foster research in these areas - by building an “Agenda for Research” common to all.

In Turkey the number of applied research projects and basic research projects on forests and forestry conducted by Forest Research Institutes and Faculties of Forestry have respectively increased.

Information from the Qualitative Questionnaire describe that specifically stated policy objectives in relation to research, training and education has been adopted by the majority of the reporting countries (13 out of 17).

1. To promote research and strengthen research capacities, and to promote technology development (Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Turkey).
2. Continuous/active support for forest education and training (Cyprus, Finland and Slovakia).
3. Strengthening modern knowledge management; monitoring, data management, research, education and vocational training, public relations etc. And illustrating the historical and present concepts of sustainability, in particular with regard to forest education and public relations (Austria).
4. Better integration of human resources management, decision making, marketing and public relations to education (Hungary).

**TARGET 2:**
*In addressing emerging issues forest knowledge is improved through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication*

**Bulgaria**: development of scientific and research activities and linkage with the necessities of the forest business.

**Cyprus**: two main objectives: 1. to develop and promote forest research, at least on areas of special interest for Cyprus forestry, and 2. to continuously improve the level of forest education, training and specialization for all forest employees.

**Turkey**: research project number will be increased 138 to 150; research project number which applying will be increased 15 to 20 until end of the 2017.

The **European Union** mentions the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 and the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP).

- The Specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 makes specific reference to the forest-based sector under Societal Challenge 2 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bio-economy, sub-activity 2.1.4 - Sustainable forestry. Specific reference is made to multifunctional forest production systems, tree health, ecosystem services, sustainable supply of biomass with due consideration to economical, ecological and social aspects of forestry, including owners needs and regional differences. Further sections in the SC2 of relevance for forestry and forest-based value chains are the sections on ecosystem services and public goods; empowerment of rural areas, support to policies and rural innovation; sustainable and competitive bio-based industries and supporting the development of a European bio-economy; as well as other chapters in Horizon 2020, illustrating the cross-cutting nature of the sector.

- The EIPs act across the whole research and innovation chain, bringing together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels in order to step up research and development efforts and helping any breakthroughs to be quickly brought to market. Most relevant for the forest-based sector are the EIP Agriculture, EIP Water and EIP Raw Materials.

In reference to institutional frameworks, the overall situation of the institutional framework has been widely described in the Goal 3, and the initiatives for improve forest knowledge through research and education developed by countries can be grouped in four different scenarios: forestry schools (Slovakia), special units for public awareness integrated in forest administration (Luxembourg), Scientific Advisory...
Council (Germany), and the Regional Office of the EFI for South-East Europe (EFISEE), stabilised in Croatia. Some specific descriptions of the institutional framework can be found by Cyprus, Finland and Hungary.

- In Cyprus, there is a very recent proposal by the Department of Forests for the future of the Cyprus Forestry College - the only forest educational institution in Cyprus. In 2013, the Cyprus University of Technology finalized its proposal for the establishment of a new Department on Natural Resources (including Forestry) and Energy. The approval of the proposal and its implementation has been postponed.

- In Finland, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL) and the statistical services of the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Tike) are merged under a new entity called Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) as of 1 January 2015. The rationale for establishing the new Natural Resources Institute Finland is to boost natural resources research, which is fundamental for building a future for bioeconomy and welfare.

- In Hungary the Forest Research Institute was integrated into the National Agriculture Research and Innovation Centre in 2014 incorporating research in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

In relation to the legal and regulatory frameworks for improving forest knowledge through research and education, Forest strategies, forest laws, National Frameworks on Rural Development, etc., are several of the identified initiatives. And it has been described that training and education policies are based on forest laws, general legislation on training and mainly education, or specific forest-related research, training, and education policies.

Bulgaria: main laws and ordinances related to the education as a whole have been frequently changed with no impact on the sector. In the new FL from 2011 there is a Chapter 15 that regulates the education, qualification and re-qualification of the employees in the sector.

With respect to financial instruments, besides the overall situation widely described in the Goal 3, grants, public funds, financial support for research on and development, etc., which are the most widely chosen.

Increased financial support for qualification and competences of the Executive Forest Agency personnel ensured by the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity in Bulgaria and increased allocations from the state budget for research institutes, such as Genetic Resources and Seed Bank, ICP, IPP and EFISEE in Croatia.

In reference to means of information to improve forest knowledge through research and education, besides the already described tools used by Austria (Social Media), Bulgaria (OPAC projects) and Croatia (program in primary schools), other different initiatives have been described by countries. Bulgaria, for example, has prepared a catalogue for best silvicultural activities in water supply zones. Germany has created new websites offering information about forest related activities for children and consumers. “www.waldkulturerbe.de” “www.treffpunktwald.de”. Communication by FNR (German institution) on innovative methods and products.

Moreover, and from the Qualitative questionnaire, the main characteristics that describe the informative means to improve information and communication are:

- Almost all of the reporting countries (16 out of 17) highlight that there is public access to forest inventory data in their countries. In general, the results of the forest inventories are published on the national websites (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey). In a few countries, the data is with limited access and available on demand (in particular plot and forest ownership data), e.g. Bulgaria and Cyprus.

- More than a half of the respondents (10 out of 17) state that a written (governmental) forest related outreach and communication strategy exists (in different forms, e.g. strategies, annual reports, campaigns, etc.) and often available on the government websites. In several countries, the communication strategy is part of their NFPs (e.g. Finland and Turkey).

- The majority of reporting signatories (13 out of 17) inform that having a national report on the status of SFM in their countries. Several counties have annual reports (e.g. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia and Hungary). And a few countries have stated that their national reports are based on the pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM (E.g. Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Spain).

In the European Union the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Environmental Agency (EEA) provide forest-related information at the EU level. There is public access to forest-related data through: European Forest Data Centre (EFDAC, http://forest.jrc.ec.europa.eu/efdac); for aggregated forest inventory data; Eurostat – Forestry (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/forestn/list/database); and SEBI - Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators (http://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/sebi-indicators).
TARGET 3:
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.

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to increase the supply of wood and other forest products from sustainably managed forests, are:

In respect to forest policies, the majority of reporting signatories (15 out of 17) present specifically policy objectives in relation to production and use of wood in order to increase the wood supply and other forest products. Most of the signatories referred to the aim to maintain, secure and increase sustainable wood supply and production from sustainable timber resources (Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia and Turkey) and ensure timber quality (Belgium and Czech Republic). Some of them also reported to increase consumption of wood for energy purposes/wood-based energy (Croatia, Czech Republic and France) and sustainable production and utilization of biomass (Bulgaria). And besides this, Turkey also provides information about the use of fuel wood and production of charcoal.

As for the legal and regulatory framework for the production and use of wood in order to increase the wood supply and other forest products, forest law is the main legal and operational basis for policies on the production and use of wood (7 out of 17 countries). Since 2011, five signatories have reported changes, particularly in relation to the adoption of new laws/provisions for implementing the EU FLEGT and EU Timber Regulation (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, France and Luxembourg).

For this target, the financial instruments are widely analysed under Goal 3, and regarding informative means, Luxembourg and Spain point to mainly use websites as informative tool. In Hungary, the education centres for the public, offer more information on sustainable forest management and on the advantages of wood products in the media and especially on forest education traks. And Austria use Social Media.

The Estonian Forestry Development Plan until 2020 sets the objective to increase management activities and deriving from age structure of Estonian forests, increase the volume of felling to the amount of annual increment.

Finland maintains the annual increment at 100-110 million cubic metres and the increase of domestic round wood removals to 65-70 million cubic metres.

In Hungary, four objectives can be summarized:

1) To increase wood products the production and domestic use of quality timber and added value of wood based products.

2) Maintain the domestic production of wood based boards.

3) Maintain or increase the supply of wood for energy.

4) Reduce the area of unmanaged forest land.
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.

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to estimate the full value of forest ecosystem services across Europe and that the values are increasingly reflected in relevant national policies and market-based instruments, are:

In relation to related forest policies, in eight countries, their national forest programmes, forest strategies or similar policy instruments specially focus on the value of forest ecosystem services (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Turkey) and Greece have developed guidelines for the estimation of value of forest land. Information on specifically stated policy objectives by countries for this target is detailed described in Goal 3.

Concerning institutional frameworks, there are several remarkable country initiatives, described in the Specific Questionnaire, concerning the valuation of forest ecosystem services. Bulgaria has set a working group with representatives from all stakeholders established for the elaboration of the Regulation for evaluation of the forest ecosystem services. In this line of work, Spain has a Forest Committee with state representatives and regional governments (it is a coordination group for forest issues). And in France, ecosystem evaluation and ecosystem services are ongoing in connection to the EU biodiversity strategy implementation.

Concerning the legal and regulatory frameworks for ecosystem services, the Specific Questionnaire reveals that forest laws are the main instruments used to regulate forest ecosystem services in several countries (Austria and Germany). Other regulations used by countries are: biodiversity strategy (France) and National Framework on Rural Development (Spain).

The Austrian Forest Act obliges forest owners and managers to implement SFM in a way that ensures besides the productive functions also protective, environmental and recreational functions of forests in Austria.

A Methodology for PES (Payments for Ecosystem Services) is foreseen in Bulgaria to be part in the future Regulation for valuation of the ecosystem services from forest (according to Forest Law, art. 249, par. 8).

With regard to financial instruments, the overall situation is described in Goal 3. Some interesting examples of specific funding for valuation of forest ecosystem services are provided below:

- Austria entertains a network of Forest Nature Reserves, in order to preserve specific forest ecosystems and their biodiversity, where forest owners are financially compensated for loss of economic revenues. Furthermore the Austrian Programme on Rural Development provides subsidies for measures supporting specific ecosystem services, e.g. for maintain the protective functions of forests against natural hazards.

- In Bulgaria, EFA applied under Program BG 03 "Biological diversity and ecosystem services" financed by the EEA mechanism (Environmental European Agency) and the Norwegian financial mechanism the project "Mapping and assessment of forest ecosystem services in Bulgaria outside Natura 2000"(FOR OUR FUTURE). Main goals of the project are: mapping and the forest ecosystem services in zones outside Natura 2000 that are within the country; implementation of Goal 2 of the EU Biodiversity strategy 2020, resp. preservation and restoration of the ecosystems and services and benefits, that forest provide; limitation of the decrease of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services.
In Croatia, two ordinances can be mentioned: Ordinance on the procedure for the realization of the rights to the funds from the Fee for the use of Forest Ecosystem Services (an integral part of national budget) for the performed works in the forests (OG 22/15), and the Ordinance on the method of calculation, forms, separate account and payment deadlines for the Fee for Forest Ecosystem Services (OG 19/15).

In Germany, the “Länder” offer different mechanisms to forest owners for ecosystem service payments, e.g. payments for thinning in protective forests in mountainous regions financial support by State to forest owners for special activities in forests.

Information on the use of financial instruments for private forests and their management, including main objectives for this target are described in detail in Goal 3. In reference to informative means, as happens in others goals and targets, forest reports, forest registers and websites are de common tools for diffusion of information regarding the valuation of forest ecosystem services. Research projects and university studies are important for outreach and informing sharing with stakeholders.

The Austrian Forest Report 2015 contains information on non-wood forest products and services.

In Belgium (Wallonia Region), a study has been conducted by the Namur University on ecosystem services, with an economical evaluation for the forest ecosystem services.
TARGET 5:
All European countries include strategies for forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation in national forest programs or equivalents and all other relevant national strategies.

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories in order to include in National Forest Programmes or equivalents and in other national strategies, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, are:

When addressing forest policies, two countries provide information about the inclusion in the National Forest Programmes specifics strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In France, NFP 2015 will deal with climate change adaptation and mitigation, in line with the national plan for adaptation to climate change; and in Hungary, the NFP 2016-2025 (now in the planning phase) will be addressed in this line.

When reporting on specifically stated objectives in relation to land use and forest area, Croatia describe a key measure taken on implementing the policy since 2011 for the project “Improving inventory of GHG and surface demarcation under p.3.3.4. of Kyoto protocol”, incorporated the entire EU legislation related to adaptation to climate change.

Many reporting countries (13 out of 17) account specifically stated objectives in relation to carbon balance. Some of the most frequently mentioned objectives relate to:

1. Research/knowledge/information on climate change impacts on the forest, its health and functions (Austria and Czech Republic).

2. Following EU policies and objectives and UNFCCC COP 18 in Doha, increase up to 20% the share of RES (Renewable Energy Sources) until 2020 (Belgium and Bulgaria).

3. Low carbon development strategies (Croatia).

4. Carbon sinks /stocks in forest biomass, soil, wood products as timber for construction (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland and Spain).

5. Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Slovakia).

6. Wood energy production (Finland and Hungary).

Some examples of the stated objectives in relation to carbon balance are:

Bulgaria set the obligatory goal for increasing up to 20% the share of RES within the total EU energy utilization till 2020; the obligatory goal of 10% for all EU Member States for a minimal share of the biofuels within the whole utilization of petrol and diesel fuel for the transport sector of EU till 2020 to be achieved via most effective economic way, incl. increase of the share of wood biomass for energy production, and enhance of the sustainability and capability for adaptation of the forest ecosystems in terms of climate change.

The objectives in Czech Republic are set by NFP II (Key action 6 - To alleviate impacts of expected global climate change and extreme meteorological phenomena) and other aforementioned strategies. The aim is to optimize carbon cycling in soil horizons, growing stock, wood products and prevent soil degradation (due to NFP II measures 6.2. and 6.4) etc. Also, the discussion has been started to improve forest monitoring to obtain more reliable information about carbon stocks.

In Finland, maintaining carbon sequestration and stocks in forest ecosystems at 10-20 million tonnes CO₂ eq. per year. Increasing the use of wood based energy to 27% of total energy consumption with a view to reaching the 29% target by 2020.

In relation to institutional frameworks and informative means, the overall information is described in Goal 3. Though information on legal and regulatory frameworks is not provided specifically for this target, when addressing carbon balance it is widely described by countries. The legal basis mainly consists of legal acts and a variety of regulations on forests, energy efficiency, climate change and environmental protection. Almost a third part of the countries (6 out of 17) have reported...
changes in relation to adoption of new legislation/acts in relation to climate/energy, and regarding international commitments for the incorporation of EU legislation in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation into national legislation through amendments.

Some detailed information from countries is:

- Bulgaria: Law on RES in force since 03.05.2011 (last amendment 11.04.2014); Ordinance of the Minister of economy and energy, RD-16-869 of 02.08.2011 for calculation of the total share of energy from RS within the framework of the total end usage of energy and the usage of bio fuels and RES in the transport sector; Ordinance of the Minister of economy, and energy – RD-16-558 of 08.05.2012 for collection and provision of information via the National information system for the potential, production and usage of energy of RS in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- Croatia: entire EU legislation related to the mitigation and adaptation of climate changes incorporated through Amendments to Air Protection Law (OG 130/11, 47/14). Through legal institute “Right to build” on the part of forest land, Forest Law (OG 94/14) enables construction of camps and golf courses for raising of economic competitiveness.
- Finland: Climate Change Act (under preparation).
- Spain: Royal decree 163/2014 by which a carbon footprint and sinking carbon projects registry is set up.

About the financial instruments and economic policy, besides the information provided under Goal 3, some specific information has been shared.

- Croatia: implements national RDP measure M08.5 – Support for investments that improve the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.
- Germany: financial support for research on adaptation / mitigation on different levels.
- Hungary: subsidies on green electricity had significantly increased and later stabilized on a higher level the wood based energy production.
TARGET 6:
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.

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to reduce the loss of forest biodiversity at habitat levelling half and, where possible to zero, and to reduce significantly the fragmentation and degradation of forests and restore degraded forests, as described in the Specific Questionnaire, are:

Regarding forest policies, the National Forest programmes and Forest Strategies are tools used for several countries to protect forest areas and its biodiversity (Estonia, Germany and Luxembourg). And Bulgaria and Spain highlight the role of the Natura 2000 Network in order to protect and restore forest biodiversity.

In relation to institutional frameworks, besides the one described in Goal 5, Bulgaria has detailed that the main responsible institution in terms of “biodiversity” is the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

Concerning legal and regulatory frameworks, most of the countries use Forest Laws and Forest Acts (or similar as Green infrastructures Act for example, protective actions plans, etc.) to protect and restore forest areas. Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Spain have detailed enumeration of their related normative.

With regard to financial instruments, funds and subsidies are two financial instruments used to reduce the loss of forest biodiversity and to reduce fragmentation and degradation of forests and restore degraded forests.

Bulgaria Forest Law regulates the purchase and land consolidation of forest territories in order to decrease the forest fragmentation and degradation. In addition, the Forest Law envisages observation of the principle of: “maintenance of the ecosystem integrity and implementation of the ecological principles in the development of the forest management” while planning activities in the forests.

In Slovakia the rules for invasive species suppression were changed in Nature Conservation Act.

The Luxembourg target to protect as total forest reserve 5% of public forests confirmed by new nature protection action plan, forest matters are laid down in legislation (and in administrative decrees regulations, action plans for endangered species in forests (bats, wildcats, birds, ...).

In this sense, Croatia details investments to improve the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems. On the other hand, Germany finances research and projects through Forest Climate Fund at national level. Luxembourg government subsidies for total forest reserves serve for implementation of species protection action plans. Finally, in Spain, the EU Rural Development Funds Priority is the main financial framework of Natura 2000.

In reference to informative means, no remarkable information stands out, following the overall information as described previously in Goal 5, with general references to Web pages and informational campaigns.

Note: Policies, objectives and measures implemented to achieve Target 6 are closely related to Goal 5 (The loss of forest biodiversity in Europe is halted and degraded forests are restored or rehabilitated). The information provided for Target 6 can be therefore complemented by the analysis conducted for Goal 5. (See Goal 5 for more information).
TARGET 7: The role of forests in combating desertification is fully recognised and forests are also managed to that end

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to recognise the role and manage forests to combat desertification, as described in the Specific Questionnaire, are as follows:

In respect to forest policies, and besides what is stressed under Target 7, two countries provide further information: Portugal and Turkey.

- In Portugal, the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCD) has been recently revised and updated and forests do play a role within the several measures/actions foreseen.

- In Turkey due that some forest ecosystems occupy semiarid regions of the country; the programmes of combating desertification and erosion joined with forest fire management are receiving much more attention among the other forestry activities.

Regarding informative means, Portugal details that its national programme, the PANCD, has been widely disseminated; moreover, in its preparation active participation of interested parties (public and private) has been registered.

Note: Policies, objectives and measures implemented to achieve Target 7 are closely related to Goal 6 (The role of forests in combating the progress of desertification is strengthened). The information provided for Target 7 can be therefore complemented by the analysis conducted for Goal 6. (See Goal 6 for more information).
TARGET 8:
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

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to ensure a significant increase in socio-economic and cultural benefits, especially for human health, livelihoods, rural development and employment from forests, are:

Besides the analysis developed in Goal 3 (regarding the production and use of wood and the production and use of non-wood goods and services) and in Goal 7 (regarding economic viability, employment, research, training and education and cultural and spiritual values), specific examples are provided.

In relation to forest policies, Turkey specifies that the employment capacity and the contribution to the national economy of forest resources are significantly increased through rural development programmes introducing agroforestry systems for food security and nutrition and supporting subsistence needs for rural people living in and nearby forest besides providing other socio-economic and cultural benefits for urban and rural people.

In reference to the legal and regulatory frameworks, Hungary points out that Hungary’s National Rural Development Programmes addressed forestry in the periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in an increased manner, especially addresses the livelihoods, employment and rural dimensions of forestry and forest land use, and regarding financial instruments, it references that State forest companies increased investments in welfare infrastructure in forests as well as in services.

Note:
Policies, objectives and measures implemented to achieve Target 8 are closely related to Goal 7 (Socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests are optimised). The information provided for Target 8 can be therefore complemented by the analysis conducted for Goal 7. (See Goal 7 for more information).
TARGET 9: Effective measures are taken at regional, sub-regional and national levels to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade.

The main policies, actions and measures adopted by signatories to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade, are:

Concerning forest policies, half of the countries have adopted measures to regulate illegal logging, according to the information from the Specific questionnaire. Austria, Estonia and Portugal have specific actions in their National Forest Programs. Germany, have developed specific conditions regarding Public Procurements. Slovakia, Spain and Turkey have specific legislation.

In relation to the Action Area ‘Austria’s international responsibility for sustainable forest management’ the broadly among stakeholders agreed Austrian Forest Programme states the following Goal: Controlling illegal logging, destruction and degradation of forest ecosystems as well as the associated timber trade in an effective and sustainable manner.

Public Procurement of the federal German administrations and of some Länder, cities and companies require legal and sustainable produced timber.

In Portugal, the implementation of national legislation resulting from the transposition of EU Timber Regulation is nowadays an important NFP component.

The Spanish National Plan for checking legality on timber trade has been approved last February.

In Turkey, since the forests are owned and managed by Turkish Forest Service, regardless the private forests and forests with legal entity belonging public utility institutions, which are only 0.1% of the total forest land, the progressively improved governance with law enforcement to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade in SFM is highly competent in cases of illegality encountered in regional, sub-regional and national levels.

In relation to institutional frameworks, six countries report that no new bodies have been created to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade and the issue is covered by state or government administration. On the other hand, three countries have new authorities or consultative bodies to strengthen these needs. Most of them consider that EU Timber Regulation has promoted the impulse of these actions.

In Austria, takes action in the frame of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The Austrian Federal Office and Research Centre and the District Forest Authorities are commissioned to implement the respective legal provisions.

In Cyprus, a part of the ordinary performance of forest staff in the control of illegal logging and timber trade, an additional network of Inspectors was specifically established for the implementation of EU Timber Regulation and the relevant national law on the control of the trade of timber and timber products.

In Germany, the Thünen Competence Centre on the Origin of Timber (Hamburg) was established, identifying timber and origin also on a national level.

In Portugal, compliance follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation related national legislation is now foreseen in the new administration structure within which forests are included.

In reference to the legal and regulatory frameworks, for 5 of the 16 countries, the EU FLEGT Regulation and the EUTR have boosted the national regulations. For example:

- The Austrian Timber Trade Monitoring/Controlling Act was issued in 2014 taking into account the implementing of the EU FLEGT Regulation and the EUTR.
- In Cyprus, the new Forest Law as well as the new Law on the control of the trade of timber and timber products provide a stricter framework for the control of illegal logging and the associate trade of timber and timber products. The latter law is in accordance with EU Regulation.
- In Portugal, related national legislation was ready when EU Timber Regulation entered into force.
With regard to **financial instruments**, besides the previous examples mentioned under Goal 8, in Estonia, public funds are available for developing and maintaining electronic information exchange regarding felling and timber trade. As for **informative means**, there are different initiatives as forest related communications, informative campaigns, workshops with stakeholders and websites.

**Note:**

Policies, objectives and measures implemented to achieve Target 9 are closely related to Goal 8 (illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe). The information provided for Target 9 can be therefore complemented by the analysis conducted for Goal 8. (See Goal 8 for more information).
“We love that which amazes us and we protect that which we love”

Jacques Y. Cousteau
Explorer and researcher

4.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the joint pan-European actions and implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments, supplementing national reports on follow-up activities. The pan-European actions reflect the political priorities set up by the ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Oslo in 2011 with the Oslo Ministerial Decision on European Forests 2020 and the Oslo Ministerial Mandate.

Relevant actions and activities with added value at the pan-European level in following up the Oslo commitments were identified in the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme (adopted by the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting in February 2012 and the updated version in March 2013). This part of the report follows the structure of the work programme, describing the implementation of the Oslo Ministerial Commitments.

The activities carried out for pan-European implementation of the Oslo ministerial commitments in cooperation with partners and other organisations are set out in seven thematic programme components.

1. Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools;
2. Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting;
3. Strengthened efforts against illegal logging and related trade;
4. Valuation of forest ecosystem services;
5. Sustainable forest management in a green economy;
6. Servicing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe;
7. Communication and outreach.
4.2 Pan-European Implementation of the Oslo Ministerial Commitments

Programme component 1: Further Development of Sustainable Forest Management and its Tools

In paragraph 24 a. of the Oslo Ministerial Decision on European Forests 2020, 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.

State of the Art: implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in Europe

The first stage in implementing the action was intended to be an analysis of the state of the art of implementing sustainable forest management tools. This analysis was included in the EFI (European Forest Institute) project supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and examined how the pan-European set of criteria and indicators has been implemented.

This EFI project on Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe focused on two main objectives when addressing this complex question: (a) to analyse the implementation of the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the 46 signatory states of FOREST EUROPE, and (b) to strengthen the process and the use of criteria and indicators not only as a tool for monitoring and reporting, but also for policy making at the national and European level.

Three regional workshops in Zagreb, Budapest and Estoril were held during 2013 in order to define and understand the various aspects of the implementation of both the criteria and indicators at the national and regional level and to share experience about national applications, to identify common regional issues and to propose recommendations on fostering the implementation of criteria and indicators at national and pan-European levels. Finally, in October 2013 the pan-European Forum on the implementation of criteria and indicators was held in Vienna and the draft report was released in July 2013, with the main conclusions and recommendations presented and discussed. The final report was published at the end of 2013 and can be found at: http://www-ci-sfm.org/report.html.

Expert Group to propose improvements in tools for sustainable forest management

The Expert Group worked through 2012-2014 on the basis of two main meetings and online consultation. The first meeting took place in Madrid in November 2012 and the second in Helsinki in June 2014.

Regarding possible improvements to the existing FOREST EUROPE tools for sustainable forest management, the Expert Group set out a range of the main tools that would need to be improved:

- Pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management: the experts consider it a priority to update the indicators for sustainable forest management in the framework of the existing criteria. There was a common understanding on the urgent need to revise the pan-European indicators of FOREST EUROPE in order to respond to the current demand arising not only from the forest sector itself, but especially from other sectors or areas such as biodiversity, climate change and biomass production.

- National Forest Programmes (NFPs) or equivalent: The pan-European approach to NFPs or equivalent may need to be reviewed and updated to reflect experiences and needs and the link between NFPs and criteria and indicators may require consideration.

- Operational tools should be considered to promote sustainable forest management in practice: the experts concur that sustainable forest management has to be promoted on an operational level, as done by the Operational Level Guidelines (PEOLG). When the indicator set has been revised, it may be desirable to consider whether more work is required on promoting sustainable forest management in practice.

- Sustainable forest management communication and the links to other sectors should be improved: the definition of sustainable forest management is still valid for forests in Europe, but there is a need to enhance communication of sustainable forest management and its tools to other sectors and to the public.
Given the priority set by the expert group, it began to prepare the process of updating the set of pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management in order to present it at the “Round Table to explore proposals for improvements in Sustainable Forest Management tools” for presenting such a proposal, gathering recommendations and backing it up prior to formal approval by the ELM.

A subgroup of the experts thus contributed to the work of the Liaison Unit in preparing a proposal for updating the pan-European set of indicators, building on previous and ongoing work and taking into account the lessons learned and the experience gained. This proposal was presented to the Round Table meeting (RTM) as a starting point for discussions.

**Round Table on updating sustainable forest management tools**

Discussions took place at the round table meeting held in Cuenca, Spain in November 2014 on further improvements to sustainable forest management tools and especially on the proposal to update the pan-European set of indicators. Participants agreed on the urgent need to update the pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management and expressed recommendations on some elements of the draft proposal, such as objectives for the set of criteria and indicators, guiding principles and considerations to follow in the updating process and on the steps to be taken to update the pan-European set. This process addressed the need to start a participatory process with national experts and stakeholders as soon as possible and involved establishing an Advisory Group to facilitate the process, composed of country representatives, stakeholders and experts.

**Process of updating the pan-European set of indicators**

The proposal for a process to update the pan-European set of indicators was presented and backed up at the ELM held in Santiago, Spain, in January 2015. The ELM approved the process for updating the pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management and established an Advisory Group to facilitate it, adopting its Terms of Reference. For the purposes of the updating process, the ELM adopted objectives for the set of criteria and indicators and a list of principles and general recommendations to guide the updating process.

A participatory process to consult with countries and stakeholders was established through two online consultations and a workshop. The first online consultation was conducted from mid-December to the end of January; the second online consultation took place in March and a FOREST EUROPE Workshop on Updating the pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management was held in Madrid on 27-29 April 2015.

The Advisory Group, representing the expertise of countries and of relevant organisations in Europe, held two meetings. The first was on 11 February 2015 and the second on 9-10 April 2015 in Madrid. Based on the input provided by the participatory process, the consulted experts and their own expertise, they released two working reports and delivered their final report in June 2015.

The final recommendation of the Advisory Group on an updated set of pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management was presented to the ELM in July 2015 for its consideration and adoption.

The ELM adopted the updated set of pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management in July 2015 in Madrid, Spain.

The documentation on the updating process and the final report of the Advisory Group can be found at http://www.foresteurope.org/content/updating-pan-european-set-indicators-sfm

**Programme component 2: Further Improvement in Forest Monitoring and Reporting**

In paragraph 24 b. of the Oslo Ministerial Decision on European Forests 2020, 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.

CFRQ – Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire

At the Expert Level meeting held in Madrid in February 2012, FOREST EUROPE decided to collect data jointly with the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) in order to improve quality and harmonisation in data collection and reporting.
FOREST EUROPE has worked with FAO-FRA and other regional processes on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Montréal Process and the Observatoire des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (OFAC), also including the collaboration of the UNECE/FAO Forestry Timber Section in streamlining forest data collection through a Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire (CFRQ) for monitoring and reporting on the state of forests. The CFRQ was developed and sent to the countries by FAO-FRA as a part of the Forest Package 2015 in March 2013 and covers 7 pan-European quantitative indicators comprising about 20% of the FOREST EUROPE quantitative indicator data.

FOREST EUROPE has collaborated on the publication of three reports drafted with information provided by the Collaborative Forest Resource Questionnaire (CFRQ): “Desk reference”, “FAO Forestry Paper” and “Special Edition of Forestry Ecology and Management”.

State of Europe’s Forests 2015 report

Together with numerous other organisations and experts, FAO, EFI and the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid prepared a report on the state of Europe’s forest as in 2015. Based on data collected by the Joint FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO Questionnaire on Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: Quantitative indicators and by Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, this publication presents the status and trends in sustainable forest management in Europe.

The report provides solid information on challenges and opportunities for forests and forest management and for further policy development, as well as a firm basis for communication with other sectors and the general public. The report is available on foresteurope.org where more information on additional sources of documentation is also available.

Reporting on Goals and 2020 Targets

In order to facilitate the evaluation of achievements in relation to goals and 2020 targets for European forests, the development of monitoring and reporting on these achievements and reporting on national and pan-European achievements on goals and 2020 targets for European forests was stated.

EFI carried out a study entitled Monitoring and reporting at pan-European level of the achievements of the ‘Goals for European Forests’ and the ‘European 2020 Targets for Forests’, comprising a review and assessment of the requested available information for the purposes of monitoring and reporting on the implementation and achievements of the goals and 2020 targets of the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020.

Based on this study and aiming at the elaboration of a mid-term assessment of the level of compliance with the eight goals and nine targets at the regional level, a report on the mid-term evaluation of the goals and targets entitled Meeting the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests has been developed for presentation to the 7th FOREST EUROPE Madrid Ministerial Conference.

Programme component 3: Strengthened Efforts Against Illegal Logging and Related Trade

In paragraph 24 c. of the Oslo Ministerial Decision European Forests 2020, 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.

Workshop on governance and forest law enforcement

The FOREST EUROPE Workshop on Governance and Forest Law Enforcement, co-organised by the Regional Environment Centre (REC) and hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development took place in Budapest on 20 and 21 November and was attended by 53 participants from different countries and organisations from the pan-European region. The aim of this workshop was to exchange experience, to develop a better understanding on how to produce synergies among the variety of policy instruments and seek ways to strengthen forest governance and the enforcement of laws to set the conditions to ensure that timber logging and trade within or into the pan-European region derives from legally harvested forests. The workshop report is available at http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/report_workshop_governance.pdf
Programme component 4: Valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services

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

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.

Expert Group on the valuation of forest ecosystem services

Two meetings of the Expert Group took place in Madrid in June 2012 and in February 2014. During this period the experts worked online, focusing on three tasks: identification of forest ecosystem services, a toolbox with valuation approaches, and means to facilitate implementation. The experts drafted a report that served as a basis for discussion during the workshop held in September in Belgrade.

Workshop on the valuation of forest ecosystem services

The workshop took place on 24-25 September 2014 in Belgrade, Serbia, and served to share the Expert Group’s report and to gather information and exchange the experience of countries and organisations in possible valuation approaches. Forty-one participants from different countries and organisations from the pan-European region attended the workshop.


Programme component 5: Sustainable Forest Management in a Green Economy

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

Workshop on green economy and social aspects of sustainable forest management

This workshop took place on 29-30 April in Santander, Spain. More than 40 delegates attended the meeting. Participants included representatives from FOREST EUROPE signatory countries, universities and research institutions, landowners’ associations, workers’ and entrepreneurs’ organisations and forest certification schemes among others.

The objectives of the workshop were to find ways to develop a strategic approach to raise awareness within the forest sector, in other sectors and among the general public and to serve decision making on the contributions of multiple forest functions to local, national and regional economies in order to enhance the role of forests and green jobs in a green economy and their contribution to sustainable development. The report of the workshop is available at: http://www.foresteurope.org/documentos/report_workshop_green_economy.pdf.

Programme component 6: Servicing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

The activities of the Liaison Unit on jointly servicing the INC (Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee) were also seen as an integral part of the work programme of FOREST EUROPE, according to the Oslo decisions.

As mandated by the ministers at the Oslo Conference, the Liaison Unit was request to service the negotiation process jointly with other invited organisations. In accordance with the distribution of tasks among all the organisations as prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate, the Liaison Unit Madrid served the negotiations for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe during the four sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee that took place from February 2012 to November 2013.
Programme component 7: Communication and Outreach

The FOREST EUROPE Work Programme highlighted that strategic communication and outreach activities should support all FOREST EUROPE actions to further enhance the visibility of forests and the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to global challenges and public needs and to support FOREST EUROPE in achieving its overall objectives.

The FOREST EUROPE Communication Strategy has been implemented with a view to continue enhancing and raising awareness and understanding of all contributions by forests and sustainable forest management to the three pillars of sustainable management: environmental, economic and socio-cultural elements, and of FOREST EUROPE’s contribution to meeting national, regional and global challenges.

Accordingly the Liaison Unit has carried out several actions to accomplish this mandate.

New Website

A new FOREST EUROPE website (www.foresteurope.org) was launched at the beginning of this period with a new and a more user-friendly design. This website constitutes the core of FOREST EUROPE’s communication activities. It collects all information related to FOREST EUROPE’s work, activities, events and publications. It has also been made more interactive by:

- Integrating access to FOREST EUROPE social media in the website.
- Enabling subscription to FOREST EUROPE RSS feeds (news and events).
- Improving the news section and creating a monthly e-news bulletin to which anyone interested can subscribe free of charge, currently distributed to more than 2000 subscribers.

Social Media

Social Media are perceived as a highly beneficial tool with major communication and outreach potential. A special effort has therefore been made in this period to promote social media channels which could serve to provide information about FOREST EUROPE, its activities, the importance of sustainable forest management and the vital role that forests play in our lives.

Special FOREST EUROPE accounts have been opened in Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flicker. The number of FOREST EUROPE followers on these networks has increased steadily since the different accounts were opened.

Photo contest

Increasing knowledge among the general public about the FOREST EUROPE process, its work and the importance of sustainable forest management to maintain the vital functions of forests is one of the objectives of the communication activities carried out during this period.

With this aim, two editions of a so-called Show Off Your Forest photo contest (www.showoffyourforest.com) were organised by the Liaison Unit during this period. More than 2100 people took part in the first edition of the contest by either voting or submitting their photos and the number of participants in its second edition was even higher (almost 3400).

Additional communication tools

In addition to more traditional communication materials (press releases, brochures, posters, roll-ups, etc.), more innovative and catchy communication tools have been produced. These include a series of infographics with data on European forests and a number of videos showing short interviews with representatives of FOREST EUROPE signatory countries and observers. These are accessible on the FOREST EUROPE YouTube channel.

Participation in other forums

In order to increase the visibility of FOREST EUROPE, the Madrid Liaison Unit has taken part in different global and regional forums. Communication activities carried out include establishing partnerships, organising and participating in forums, workshops, side events, and other meetings and talks organised on the occasion of relevant dates and meetings and the preparation and distribution of special communication materials. These forums include, among others, the 10th and 11th sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the related CLI Lviv Forum on Forest in a Green Economy, the 21st and 22nd sessions of the FAO Committee on Forestry, the XIV World Forestry Congress and European Forest Week.

Communication related to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and negotiation of a legally binding agreement

Communication activities were among the tasks to be undertaken by the Liaison Unit Madrid as part of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) established by the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) on Forests in Europe.

Various activities were carried out to meet this responsibility including the design and maintenance of the INC website (www.forestnegotiations.org), the recording of videos summarising the different negotiation meetings, photo coverage of the meetings, contacts with media and the preparation and dissemination of press releases on the process.
Other activities

Besides the relevant actions and activities carried out for pan-European implementation of the Oslo ministerial commitments, specific activities were developed to meet the demands for the preparations of the 7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference.

Within these activities, and as a follow-up of the Round Table Meeting on Topics for the 7th Ministerial Conference that took place on 4-5 November 2014 in Cuenca, a report on the Assessment of the Achievements and Added Value of the FOREST EUROPE Process was issued. The report is available at: http://www.foresteurope.org/sites/default/files/Assessment-of-the-achievements_FINAL.pdf
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela
Activist and politician
Nobel Peace Prize 1993
This chapter sets out the overall situation with regard to the implementation of previous commitments. The analysis focuses on three main areas:

Firstly, a broad review is provided of declarations and the nineteen resolutions adopted in previous ministerial conferences. The information collected identifies the commitments and refers to the degree of regional development.

Secondly, details are provided on the implementation of some of the main Strasbourg and Helsinki resolutions since 2011 as reported by international coordinators. The content of the review includes a general approach, the progress of implementation since 2011 and the assessment.

Finally, several examples have been collected of action to accomplish initiatives related to previous resolutions developed by countries. These “success stories” are described in detail and the information includes a brief description of the action, the resolution and the commitment to which it refers, the scope (national, regional, or local), its status and prospects, the legal framework, a general approach and an assessment.
5.1 Summary of commitments adopted in the previous Ministerial Conferences

Since 1990, nineteen resolutions and several declarations and statements have been adopted at five Ministerial Conferences. Through these FOREST EUROPE commitments that have served as a framework for implementing sustainable forest management in European countries, the concept of sustainable forest management has been defined and continuously developed at the pan-European level.

An abstract on the implementation status of the MCPFE resolutions and declarations since 1990 is summarised in a non-exhaustive manner in the following table.

### Regional implementation of former commitments (non-exhaustive)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCPFE - FOREST EUROPE Resolutions / Decisions</th>
<th>International Coordinator</th>
<th>Regional implementation and development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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\(^4\) The Warsaw declaration includes regional commitments and actions for its implementation.

\(^5\) The Vienna declaration includes the endorsement of the Improved pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and actions related to its implementation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Implementing Coordinator</th>
<th>Regional implementation and development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vienna 5: Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe</td>
<td>MCPFE Liaison Unit</td>
<td>Workshop on pan-European recommendations for afforestation and reforestation in the context of UNFCCC. Vilnius, Lithuania, 24-26 October 2006. Workshop Climate Change and forest genetic diversity: implications for sustainable forest management in Europe. 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon 2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management</td>
<td>MCPFE Liaison Unit</td>
<td>Further implementation in the context of the Vienna Resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki 1: General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe</td>
<td>MCPFE Liaison Unit</td>
<td>Further implementation in the context of the Lisbon and Vienna Resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki 2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests</td>
<td>MCPFE Liaison Unit</td>
<td>Further implementation in the context of the Vienna Resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki 3: Forestry Co-operation with Countries with Economies in Transition</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>Activities including information and data collection analysis and capacity building. Detailed information in point 5.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki 4: Strategies for a Process of Long-Term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change</td>
<td>IUFRO</td>
<td>Extension of the IUFRO Research Series with several more state-of-knowledge reports. (Several publications regarding this issue such as Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change: A Global Assessment Report (IUFRO, 2009)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution / Decision</td>
<td>International Coordinator</td>
<td>Regional implementation and development</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strasbourg 1</strong>: European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems</td>
<td>ICP Forests in co-operation with CEC</td>
<td>Continued monitoring of the effects of air pollution and other stress factors on forests, in the framework of the ICP Forest Monitoring Programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strasbourg 3</strong>: Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires</td>
<td>EC - JRC (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)</td>
<td>Continued collection of data and information about forest fires (European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) European forest fires database. Detailed information in point 5.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strasbourg 4</strong>: Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions</td>
<td>EOMF (European Observatory of Mountain Forest) in co-operation with FAO and IUFRO</td>
<td>Further co-operation and continued implementation activities (e.g. Action Plan for the S4). The White Book 2000 on Mountain Forest in Europe was launched by EOMF in 2000, in which a number of priority actions are proposed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strasbourg 5</strong>: Expansion of the EUROSIHLVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology</td>
<td>CEC (Commission of the European Communities)</td>
<td>COST Action 6 EUROSIHLVA (1986 - ) and several cooperative research activities originating from it. The last phase, entitled COST Action E 6: EUROSIHLVA Forest Tree Physiology Research, was accomplished during the period from 1996 to 2000. A publication entitled Trends in European Forest Tree Physiology Research [electronic resource]. Cost Action E6: EUROSIHLVA was launched in 2001.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 Detailed implementation of Strasbourg and Helsinki resolutions since 2011

The review of the implementation of resolutions from the Ministerial Conferences is important to monitoring the development of the FOREST EUROPE process. Coordination of the corresponding commitments is the responsibility of relevant European organisations and cooperative partnerships. As in previous editions, these organisations and partnerships have been invited to update the progress on implementation of the former resolutions since the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Oslo, Norway in 2011.

This review was carried out by International coordinators who reported about the implementation of some of the main resolutions from the Ministerial Conferences since 2011. The content of the review includes five points to describe each resolution: name of the resolution, leading actors, general approach, implementation progress since 2011 and assessment.

This information was collected by a special questionnaire prepared by the Liaison Unit and sent to the international correspondent. An implementation update was provided for the following three resolutions:

- MCPFE Resolution Strasbourg 2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources. Reported by Bioversity International
- MCPFE Resolution Strasbourg 3: Decentralised European Data Bank on Forest Fires. Reported by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). European Commission
- MCPFE Resolution Helsinki 3: Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition. Reported by UNECE

TOWARDS GOALS FOR EUROPEAN FORESTS AND TARGETS FOR 2020

During 2011-2014, EUFORGEN operated five working groups which focused on the following:

- Development of a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees (including an assessment of the current genetic conservation status);
- Development of a genetic monitoring protocol for genetic conservation units of forest trees;
- Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change;
- Incorporation of conservation and the use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies; and
- Management of genetic conservation units in the face of climate change.

Each working group met twice during the course of its work and presented a draft report to the Steering Committee for comments and review before finalisation. The first meeting of the conservation strategy working group was hosted by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with the FAO. It was supervised by a Steering Committee composed of national coordinators from all member countries. EUFORGEN brings together national experts to exchange information and experience, analyse relevant policies and practices and develop tools and methods for improved management of forest genetic resources. Over the years, EUFORGEN has produced a large number of outputs such as genetic conservation strategies, technical guidelines, maps of the distribution of European forest trees, databases and various publications and reports. In addition, EUFORGEN has contributed to assessment reports on European forests and served as a platform for developing and implementing European projects on forest genetic resources.

During Phase IV (2010-2014), EUFORGEN carried out its activities by operating small working groups consisting of approximately 10 experts and organising workshops for a larger group of experts. In 2014, the EUFORGEN Steering Committee reviewed the progress made during Phase IV and identified needs for further action on forest genetic resources at the pan-European level. It welcomed the continued commitment of the signatory countries and the European Community to actively promote the conservation and use of forest genetic resources, as indicated in the FOREST EUROPE work programme developed in 2012. Furthermore, the Steering Committee took note of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted by the COP-10 of the CBD in 2010 and the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources adopted by the FAO Conference in 2013. Subsequently, at its 10th meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom in June 2014, the Steering Committee endorsed the continuation of EUFORGEN into Phase V (2015-2019) with the following objectives:

1. To collate, maintain and disseminate reliable information on forest genetic resources in Europe;
2. To coordinate and monitor the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe; and
3. To develop guidelines and analyses on topics and issues relevant to the use of forest genetic resources in Europe.

Further information on the new phase is available on the EUFORGEN website (www.euforgen.org).

MCPFE Strasbourg Resolution 2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

**Leading actors:** Bioversity International (Rome, Italy)

**General approach:**

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) was established in October 1994 as an implementation mechanism for Resolution S2 which called for “a functional but voluntary instrument of international cooperation” to be established to promote and coordinate the efforts of countries in this area. The programme is financed by its member countries and coordinated by Bioversity International in technical collaboration with the FAO. It is supervised by a Steering Committee composed of national coordinators from all member countries. EUFORGEN brings together national experts to exchange information and experience, analyse relevant policies and practices and develop tools and methods for improved management of forest genetic resources. Over the years, EUFORGEN has produced a large number of outputs such as genetic conservation strategies, technical guidelines, maps of the distribution of European forest trees, databases and various publications and reports. In addition, EUFORGEN has contributed to assessment reports on European forests and served as a platform for developing and implementing European projects on forest genetic resources.

During 2011-2014, EUFORGEN operated five working groups which focused on the following.

- Development of a pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees (including an assessment of the current genetic conservation status);
- Development of a genetic monitoring protocol for genetic conservation units of forest trees;
- Use and transfer of forest reproductive material in the context of climate change;
- Incorporation of conservation and the use of forest genetic resources into national forest programmes and other relevant policies and strategies; and
- Management of genetic conservation units in the face of climate change.

Each working group met twice during the course of its work and presented a draft report to the Steering Committee for comments and review before finalisation. The first meeting of the conservation strategy working group was hosted by Bioversity International in Maccarese, Italy in November 2011 and the second one by the Research Unit for Intensive Wood Production (CRA–PLF) of the Italian Agricultural Research Council in Casale Monferrato in February 2012. The working group on genetic monitoring met at Bioversity International in January 2012 and at the School of Forestry (ETSI Montes) of the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) in Spain in May 2012. The two working groups presented their draft reports for further discussion during a workshop on the conservation and monitoring of forest genetic resources organised in Järvenpää, Finland in...
The working group on forest reproductive material also organised two meetings in 2012. The first one was hosted by Bioversity International in Maccarese, Italy in March 2012 and the second one by the Bavarian Office for Forest Seeding and Planting (ASP) in Freising, Germany in July 2012. In October 2013, a draft report of the working group was presented to other EUFORGEN experts for discussion during a workshop organised in Kostrzyca, Poland. The Steering Committee then endorsed the report of the working group and its recommendations in December 2013.

The working group on polices relevant to forest genetic resources met at Bioversity International in September 2013 and in January 2014. The working group analysed a number of international, European and national policies and strategies that have implications for the conservation and use of forest genetic resources in Europe. The working group on forest genetic resources and climate change organised its first meeting at Bioversity in June 2013 and the second meeting was hosted by the Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN) at Wageningen in the Netherlands in 2014. The working group discussed the implications of climate change for the conservation of forest genetic resources and provided recommendations for strengthening conservation efforts in Europe. The Steering Committee endorsed the reports of these two working groups in June 2014. Reports and meeting summaries of all working groups are available on the EUFORGEN website.

EUFORGEN has also continued maintaining and improving the EUFGIS portal (http://portal.eufgis.org) which provides harmonised and geo-referenced data on the genetic conservation units of forest trees across Europe. The data are provided and frequently updated by national focal points with online access to the database. In collaboration with the EC-funded FORGER project (www.fp7-forgereu), EUFORGEN organised two workshops for the national focal points: the first was hosted by the Hungarian Forest Research Institute (ERTI) in Szombathely in 2012 and the second was organised in collaboration with the University of Zagreb at Zagreb, Croatia in March 2014. In April 2015 the EUFGIS portal contained data on 3218 units managed for the genetic conservation of 100 tree species in 34 countries. The units harbour a total of 4063 tree populations. EUFORGEN collected data on Indicator 46 (genetic resources) for the State of Europe’s Forests 2015 report and countries obtained a large part of the data requested for this indicator from the EUFGIS database.

**Assessment**

During the past 20 years, European countries have made good progress in conserving the genetic resources of forest trees. Many countries developed or strengthened their national programmes or strategies on forest genetic resources. However, the implementation of these national programmes and strategies has suffered from various difficulties in some countries, such as poor or non-existing linkages with national forest programmes and complexities of national administrative structures related to forests. At the pan-European level, European countries have also demonstrated continued commitment to the implementation of Resolution S2. During 2010-2014, a total of 25 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom) provided financial support for the work of EUFORGEN.

The availability and reliability of information on the conservation of forest genetic resources have improved considerably during recent years. Furthermore, the pan-European minimum requirements for the genetic conservation units of forest trees, also agreed in the context of EUFORGEN, have prompted action in many countries to improve the management of their forest genetic resources. Harmonised and more accurate data have made it possible to better assess and monitor the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. These data show that genetic conservation efforts are still highly variable among tree species and that there are significant gaps in these efforts within the distribution range of most tree species. In addition, some countries do not have any genetic conservation units that would meet the minimum pan-European requirements and a few other countries have not yet evaluated their units and provided their data to the EUFGIS database. The new pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees will guide the countries in implementing their conservation efforts so that the gaps in the European conservation network of forest genetic resources can be filled. The pan-European cooperation on forest genetic resources remains essential for the implementation of this strategy as well as Resolution S2.
Assessment

The different agencies interested in forest fire statistical data collection in the European region (UNECE, FAO, the European Union) have continued to work together effectively. Communication channels and work co-ordination have been maintained among agencies, improving the quality and coverage of the work accomplished. Particularly successful has been the cooperation between EC, UNECE, and FAO in reporting fire impacts in the region and using EFFIS Fire Database data for international reporting to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and FOREST EUROPE reporting.

This successful outcome is the result of efficient work co-ordination between the different actors. The collaborative role of individual countries in supporting the enhancement of the EFFIS Fire Database by providing the required data has been crucial to this success.

Implementation progress since 2011

The number of countries actively participating in the information system has increased significantly, from 26 countries reported in the previous update of the S3 resolution to 39 in the current EFFIS network.

Since the previous reporting periods, data in the EFFIS Fire Database have been used to estimate the socio-economic impact of fires; annual fire losses are estimated at over 2.5 billion Euro in the area monitored by the system. Furthermore, reporting on harmonization of fire causes has been consolidated into a European system, which is being adopted by countries. In addition to data provided by countries, other European wide datasets were derived and made available to countries for their national reporting purposes. These include the estimation of potential soil loss due to forest fires and forest fire emissions.

MCPFE Strasbourg resolution 3: Decentralised European Data Bank on Forest Fires

Leading actors: Joint Research Centre (JRC)

General approach:

Following European Commission (EC) Regulation 2158 of 1992 concerning the establishment of information systems in European countries, the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) collects yearly fire data from national authorities in the countries involved. Data are currently provided by countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa and stored in the fire database of the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) (San-Miguel-Ayanz et al. 2012). EFFIS was set up in 1998 following an agreement between the forest fire services in the countries involved and the European Commission on establishing a harmonised system of information on forest fires. The network around EFFIS currently has 39 members and includes most countries in the FOREST EUROPE region. Datasets on individual fire events occurring in a given year are described on the basis of a common core set of variables and delivered every year to the JRC by the countries participating in the EFFIS network. The data are then consolidated, i.e. transformed in a common format, validated and stored in the EFFIS Fire Database (Camia et al. 2014).

The data stored in this database are used to support European policies and reporting to international organisations such as the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Furthermore, the data support activities on validation and calibration of EFFIS modules. Information on aggregated data from the database is available through the EFFIS web interface (http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu). As mentioned above, 39 countries currently participate in the EFFIS network and the information system is open to all signatory countries to Resolution S3.

Cooperation has been established between the EC, the FAO and UNECE for the exchange of statistical data on fires. Under this agreement the EC acts as data provider to UNECE for those countries in the EFFIS network. Furthermore, cooperation has also been established with the FAO for extending the system to non-European countries in the Mediterranean basin in the context of the FAO Silva-Mediterranean network.

The work in EFFIS fulfils all the principles called for by the S3 Resolution. Furthermore, EFFIS goes beyond those principles by implementing modules that were the basis of the Resolution, such as those of deriving a common methodology for fire risk assessment for Europe, providing on-line and updated information on forest fires to alert the European public and analysing the causes of forest fires (Ganteaume et al. 2012) with the aim of enhancing fire prevention and assessing the socio-economic impact of forest fires.
**MCPFE Helsinki resolution 3 “Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition”**

**Leading actors: UNECE**

**General approach:**

As the international coordinator for the follow-up to Resolution H3 (Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition), the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supports a large number of activities including information and data collection as well as analysis through regular and ad-hoc surveys on topics such as forest resources, forest products markets and statistics, wood energy and forest ownership. Capacity building workshops support data collection processes and build institutional capacities in economies in transition by increasing the knowledge and skills of national correspondents. In addition, the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funded projects focussed on capacity-building activities in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

**Implementation progress since 2011**

The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been implementing Helsinki Resolution 3 with the help of the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy and the Team of Specialists on Forest Fires (until 2014). The latter initiated the work of the International Fire Forum focusing on building resilience of nations and communities within the UNECE region to wildfire emergencies and disasters by enhancing national and collective regional fire management capability through international cooperation. The UNECE/FAO United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity-building project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia” (project timeframe 2013-2015) also has been instrumental in supporting the Joint Section activities.

Several capacity building activities have been organized by UNECE/FAO since 2011 as part of the integrated programme of work:

- Forest Products Marketing Workshop (30 November - 1 December 2011, Bled, Slovenia), which focussed on initiating new cooperation for sustainable mobilisation of the forest-based sector in the countries of South East Europe by transfer of knowledge from countries with experience in modern wood products marketing and by promoting cross-border cooperation between South-East Europe (SEE) countries.

- The Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy (11 - 14 September 2012, Lviv, Ukraine), which brought together countries from Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia, represented by different stakeholders, policy makers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for implementing the concepts and requirements of a green economy in the forest sector.


- Participation in the preparation of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews as a member of the EPR team. The forest experts from the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section are charged with writing the Forestry chapter of the Reviews in a number of countries in the ECE region, analysing forest policy development and implementation as well as providing recommendations for improvements.

- Regional workshop for national correspondents to support the FAO Forest Resources Assessment and reporting on forest resources at pan-European level (16 - 18 October 2013 Geneva, Switzerland), including a workshop on wood products and energy and participants from countries with economies in transition.

- The UNECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management (28-29 November 2013, Geneva, Switzerland). The Forum elaborated recommendations to UNECE member states for building resilience to wildfire emergencies and disasters by enhancing national and collective regional fire management capability through international cooperation. Participants representing 31 countries (including countries in transition) and 16 representatives of international organizations were in attendance.

- A workshop on Forest Products Statistics for National Statistical Correspondents (27-28 May 2014, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation). The workshop was jointly organized by the Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation and the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and looked at the key technologies that can define the modernization of the Russian forest sector to maximize its potential as a global climate change mitigation mechanism and an important source of timber. Participants representing 37 countries (including countries in transition) and 23 representatives of international organizations were in attendance.
Assessment

The assistance offered to the countries has provided positive results in terms of improved contribution of the countries with economies in transition to international forest reporting processes, as well as enhanced understanding of the importance of reliable data and information to support sound policy making at a national level. Extra-budgetary funding plays an essential role in bringing the participants to the meetings. Based on the evaluations of the UNECE/FAO UNDA project workshops, a significant majority (89%) of the participants acknowledged increased knowledge on policy formulation, bioenergy generation and data collection related to sustainable forest management and green economy. The concept of a green economy is rather new for some of the project countries, and several non-pilot countries have expressed their interest and need for continuing the activities (as pilot countries) to achieve permanent results, i.e. development of the forest sector. Furthermore, with this participatory project, methods were introduced for the first time to many stakeholders.

Project pilot countries Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have taken substantial steps in transforming their forest sectors towards a green economy. Georgia has developed an action plan based on the input received from four local workshops conducted in 2014. The action plan is intended to be incorporated in the new national forest programme, which is under development with several international partners. Kazakhstan accepted the UNDA project to review the national forest programme draft in order to include green economy principles. As a result, private sector development gained a significant role in widening the original scope of the programme which had been focussed on conservation. In Tajikistan, the project, initiated in November 2014, and continuing in 2015, is supporting new forest strategy development jointly with FAO and GIZ. The project has provided support in private sector development by reviewing the current situation in Tajikistan, and continued with participatory review of the draft forest strategy by providing stakeholder input in January 2015. Project countries have welcomed the capacity building work to support their forest sector development towards a green economy.

Funding for a new UNDA project focussing on the countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia has been initially approved for 2016-2017: “Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries”. It provides substantial financial means for the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to continue capacity building activities in these countries, and builds on the networks created and lessons learned during the current UNDA project on green economy.
One of the innovations of this report is the inclusion of a section in which countries could describe specific experiences or case studies regarding the implementation of former FOREST EUROPE Commitments, providing an opportunity of sharing successful activities developed by countries to act as an example to others.

For this purpose, the specific questionnaire “National reporting on the measures taken by countries regarding the compliance of the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020” (see chapter 3) included a section in which countries could share their experiences derived from the implementation of former FOREST EUROPE Commitments.

Examples of successful activities have been highlighted and described by country representatives. Eight countries have shared success stories derived from former Ministerial Conferences resolution action.

The information gathered is a general description, with a description of the action, the resolution linked with, the geographical scope, the topic area, the status and the legal framework in the country (if any), and the analysis of the action, with information regarding the general approach and an assessment.

The countries that have highlighted and described success stories are: Austria, Belgium (Wallonia region), Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain.
**Austria**

### ACTION 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>Austrian Forest Act</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Helsinki 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Sustainable Forest Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>It was a political decision to amend the Austrian Forest Act according to FOREST EUROPE provision on SFM, adopted by the parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>Key provisions of the Helsinki Resolution 1 were integrated into The Austrian Forest Act, e.g. the definition of SFM constitutes now paragraph 1 of the act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Implementation of SFM according to the FOREST EUROPE provisions is therefore obligatory in Austria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTION 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>Applying Criteria and Indicators for SFM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Lisbon 2; Vienna General Declaration, Annex Improved Indicators for SFM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Use C&amp;I for policy development and monitoring, assessment and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>No legal obligation, but commonly agreed by stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>Austria took the Pan-European C&amp;I for SFM as basis and developed one additional Austria-specific Criterion and 35 additional Austria-specific quantitative indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>The Criteria for SFM provide the thematic frame for the work of the Austrian Forest Dialogue. The Pan-European C&amp;I together with the additional Austria-specific C&amp;I are the thematic frame for monitoring, assessment and reporting, e.g. published through the Austrian Forest Report</td>
</tr>
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### ACTION 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>Austrian Forest Dialogue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Vienna 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Stakeholder participation and Cross-sectoral cooperation through NFP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>No legal obligation, political mandate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>Broad participatory dialogue for forest policy formulation and implementation, started in 2003, based on the principles for NFPs as stated in the Vienna Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Fully implemented, participation of 90 institutions and organisations, a number of highly relevant achievements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2008, the Walloon Parliament voted a new Forestry Act ("Code forestier") which includes, among others, new rules for the private forest ownership (size of clear-cuttings, adequacy between species and soils, etc.). These new rules made it necessary to set up an information desk for private owners.

In 2012, the Walloon Government decided to create a public organisation specifically dedicated to stimulate the wood industry: the Walloon Economic Office for Wood (OEWB, "Office économique wallon du bois"). One of the missions of this organisation is to encourage sustainable management of forest resources, with a special target on small forest owners.

These two political decisions resulted in the creation of a OEWB specific service called "Support Unit for Small Private Forests" (CAPFP, "Cellule d’Appui à la Petite Forêt Privée").

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<th>ACTION 1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description of action</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name of resolution</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Status (and forecast)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework</strong></td>
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</table>
| **General approach** | The three main tools of the CAPFP are:  
- The information desk, which gives forest owners all necessary information to manage their forest or to contact professionals;  
- The development of projects of “collective forest management” in scattered woodlands to encourage and optimize forest management in wooded parcels smaller than 5 hectares;  
- The monitoring of the small forest ownership (owners profiles, structure of the ownership, evolution of forest resources, etc.).  
All these missions that have been clearly defined are supervised by a committee bringing together delegates from the forest administration, associations of owners, entrepreneurs and academics. Commercial acts are not allowed for the CAPFP and redirection to professionals (private sector) has to be realised. The information desk is free for the private owners except for onsite visits (a small financial contribution is requested to the owner).  
One of the missions entrusted to the CAPFP specifically consists in developing forest “collective management” (meaning in this context that each owner keeps all these property rights, accepts to participate in silvicultural or management actions covering a territory including its own properties or parcels). For the moment, such activities only concern woodlands or parts of territories which are very scattered and owned by many small forest owners.  
The work plan of the CAPFP for each project can be summarized as follows:  
- Identification of target woodlands or parts of the territory particularly scattered and thus potentially dedicated to “collective management”;  
- Contacts with local municipalities (partner of each project) and organisation of personal contacts with owners (mail, conferences,…);  
- Offer personalized advice to owners (entirely free of charge and of any subsequent commitment): this visit should make the owner aware of good forest practices;  
- Incentive to attending grouped operations relating to logging, pruning, thinning or planting;  
- Choice of professional operators (companies and independent workers) to carry out these forest works which are supervised by the CAPFP; project monitoring by giving updated information to owners.  
As a public, and thus neutral, organisation the main CAPFP objective is to encourage owners, especially the smallest, to focus on forest management, to benefit from advantages provided by the collective management (better prices for wood sales and silvicultural works, roads building opportunities, potentially much more influence on forest policy decisions,…). Finally, the objective over time is to stimulate the economic activity in forests and the sustainability of the Walloon forest resources. |

Profiles of owners who agree to join these projects (generally less than 10% of the global number of forest owners concerned) are essentially:
- Owners not directly connected to the land (living far from their forest);
- New forest owners assimilated to those who have inherited their forest but lack knowledge about forest management;
- Ageing owners who can’t manage their forest or are no longer interested because of due to their age.

Nevertheless such actions also contribute to forest management in a larger part of the woodland, by other owners who work on their parcels. Benefits of each project are thus more important than the direct results of grouped operations.

The network built among owners in each group that are maintained by regular newsletters, also provides satisfaction to their owners that feel that they are part of a group and have a partner to help them in the management of their forest. The first two years of activity of the CAPFP showed that the need of such an organisation is real, in particular for new forest owners and other owners disconnected from the land.

This initiative is the first one conducted by a public organisation to the benefit of private forests. Even if results are currently at a local level, this forest policy measure brings an important change in terms of involvement of the Walloon Region for small forest owners.

### ACTION 2

**Description of action** Integration of MCPFE indicators in the regional permanent forest inventory (since 1997)

**Name of resolution** Lisbon 2

**Commitment** Annex on criteria and indicators for SFM

**Scope** Regional (forest policy is a regional matter)

**Status (and forecast)**

**Legal framework** Code Forestier and execution regulations

**General approach** To add to the forest inventory procedures observation or measures to estimate MCPFE indicators (relating to criteria 1 to 5)

### ACTION 3

**Description of action** Enquiry for the private owners for which the regional forest inventory have sample plots in their properties

**Name of resolution** Lisbon 1

**Commitment** Explore ways and means to maintain and develop at a national level sound regulatory, institutional and economic frameworks conducive to enabling and motivating all forest owners to practice sustainable forest management and to make long term investment in forestry

**Scope** Regional (forest policy is a regional matter)

**Status (and forecast)**

**Legal framework** Code Forestier and execution regulations

**General approach** To add in the forest inventory procedures information on the size of private properties, the main goals of the owners (multifunctional management, expenses and revenues, opening of the forest for public …), former use of subsidies, relations with forest experts, forest enterprises (for planting, pruning, thinning…)

### Assessment
**ACTION 1**

**Description of action:** Elaboration of National Forest policy and strategy - 2003, National strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector 2006-2015 and Strategic plan for development of the forest sector 2007-2011, national strategy for development of the forest sector 2013-2020 and Strategic plan for development of the forest sector 2014-2023

**Name of resolution:** H1, V1/3/5/6, L1/2

**Commitment:** Main guidance for sustainable forest management, Development of national forest policies, related to ensuring income in the rural areas and based on broad stakeholders participation

**Scope:** National

**Environmental area:** Forestry

**Status (and forecast):** The latest documents are under implementation

**Legal framework:** The Forest Law and its regulations, other national policies and strategies, EU Forest strategy from 1998 and the respective Action Plan, the new EU Forest strategy

**General approach:** The aforementioned national strategic documents are based on the Pan European C&I (incl. Improved C&I) for sustainable forest management

**Assessment:** As there is no sectorial forest policy at EU level, the principle of subsidiarity is implemented in terms of forest management. Bulgaria has a rich historical experience of almost two centuries in forest management with proven good results. The only negative factor for the implementation of the national policy for the forest sector is limited financial resources

**ACTION 2**

**Description of action:** Program of measures for adaptation of the forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative effect of the climate change on them - elaborated as a result of an INTERREG IVC project FUTUREforest

**Name of resolution:** H4, Warsaw declaration

**Commitment:** Strategy for long term adaptation to climate change

**Scope:** National

**Environmental area:** Forestry

**Status (and forecast):** It is envisaged for inclusion in the National strategy for adaptation to climate change, that is under development by the Ministry of environment and waters

**Legal framework:** The topics of the INTERREG IVC project FUTURE forest concern major aspects of forest management as: influence upon the water cycle; in relation to the Framework Water Directive 2000/60/EU; influence upon soil protection; in relation with the Framework Soil Directive COM(2006) 232; in relation to NATURA 2000; influence upon the timber production (economic function)

**General approach:** Main vision of the project was: "Through inter-regional cooperation we will create tools, methods, policies and programmes to support forest owners and decision makers in order to fulfil the multiple benefits from forests and bequeath to the next generation of forests, that are well adapted and flexible in terms of natural risks and climate change"

**Assessment:** Assessment of this project is positive. The expected results have been achieved 100% by its partners. The elaboration and adoption of the Program of measures for adaptation of the forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative effect of climate change on them was of great importance to Bulgaria, together with other major outcomes of the project - updating of the Classifying scheme of types of forest habitats in R of Bulgaria

**ACTION 3**

**Description of action:** Forest week

**Name of resolution:** L1

**Commitment:** Enhancement of the social-economic aspects of SFM

**Scope:** National

**Environmental area:** Forestry

**Status (and forecast):** Annual implementation

**Legal framework:** Each first week of April, every year, we announce the professional celebration of the foresters. During this week there are a number of events, publications, media participation for the promoting the forester profession, the importance of forests and their functions

**General approach:** This year we are proud to announce the 90th anniversary of forestry education in the country and also 90 years of Forest week celebration
### ACTION 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>SEE project CC-WaterS. Climate change and impacts on water supply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>W2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Establishment of a relation between the functions of the forests and the water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Protection and improvement of the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>Framework Water Directive 2000/60 EU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General approach**
The main objective of the Program is to improve the process of territorial, economic and social integration in South East Europe through the establishment of partnerships, important for common and strategic issues of the region. The project was oriented towards the following results: establishment of a management system in the region conditioned to climate change; information strategies towards society and stakeholders in SEE; sustainable, national, regional and local water management in SEE, etc.

**Assessment**
In Bulgaria all research was done in the Struma river watershed. All expected results are achieved, as summarizing in the methodologies for assessment of the present water resources and elaboration of a common methodology in accordance to the Framework Water Directive EU 2000/60; elaboration of an assessment for the future land utilization, bearing in mind the developed climatic scenarios, and its negative impact on the quality and quantity of the water resources; preparation of recommendations for sustainable water resource management conditioned by climate change and land use changes; development of strategies for provision of drinking water, adapted to foreseen climate changes.

### ACTION 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>SEE project “Practical Use of MONITORing in Natural Disaster Management”- MONITOR II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>W2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Establishment of a relationship between the functions of the forests and water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Improvement of nature risks prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**General approach**
The main goals of the project were: minimizing the specified discrepancies in the information flow; development of instruments and procedures for the introduction of different information sources; improvement to the access and effectiveness of disaster plans and risk maps; improvement in information reliability; analysing the necessity of the different societal groups to specialized information. In Bulgaria the research was in the watershed of the river Varbitsa.

**Assessment**
For Bulgaria it was of great importance the development of a common integrated monitoring system, analyses, simulation modelling and risk management related to floods and torrents on the basis of research carried out, also the elaborated prototype of a system for Continuous Situation Awareness - CSA. The system was directed at preserving data from past events and to support a dynamic map of - risk zones and objects; to report diverse activities and regimes in different plans and projects; to warn stakeholders when the risk is higher than the defined level; for modelling dynamic processes related to consequences arising from - high waves (risk zones, flood zones, torrent energy and etc.).

**Assessment**
In Bulgaria all research was done in the Struma river watershed. All expected results are achieved, as summarizing in the methodologies for assessment of the present water resources and elaboration of a common methodology in accordance to the Framework Water Directive EU 2000/60; elaboration of an assessment for the future land utilization, bearing in mind the developed climatic scenarios, and its negative impact on the quality and quantity of the water resources; preparation of recommendations for sustainable water resource management conditioned by climate change and land use changes; development of strategies for provision of drinking water, adapted to foreseen climate changes.
### ACTION 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>National forest inventory in Croatia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>S1 - European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Forest and forest land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>Inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in the international exchange data network of the state of forests and global care of forests on the principles of sustainable forest management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ACTION 1

**Description of action** National Forest Programme II

**Name of resolution** Vienna Resolution V1

**Commitment** Strengthen synergies for sustainable forest management in Europe through cross-sectoral cooperation and national forest programmes

**Scope** National

**Environmental area** Forestry and Trade

**Status (and forecast)** existing


**General approach**
NFPs are designed to provide a planning framework delimiting the influence of other sectors on forest policy, raise awareness concerning the significance of forests and ensure participation of the responsible government departments and interest groups in the problem-solving process with regards to forests and forestry. The Programmes shall further create prerequisites for safeguarding adequate capacities and concentrate on controversial issues being solved by various competent state institutions.

- **Group of economic forest functions** - their strategic objective is long-term enhancement of forestry competitiveness and increased utilization of forest products, goods and services in the life of the society.
- **Group of environmental forest functions** - their strategic objective is to preserve and enhance biological diversity, integrity, health and resistance of forest ecosystems on local scale with respect to a possible scenario of global and landscape changes.
- **Group of social forest functions** - their strategic objective is to contribute to the quality of life by preserving and enhancing the social and cultural dimensions of forests and forest management.

**Assessment** Implementation phase

## ACTION 2

**Description of action** Forest Tree Reproductive Material

**Name of resolution** Helsinki Resolution H2; Lisbon Resolution L2 - Annex 1 (Concept Area: Biological Diversity in Production Forests)

**Commitment** General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests

**Scope** National

**Environmental area** Forestry and Trade

**Status (and forecast)** Existing

**Legal framework** The issue is regulated by Act No. 149/2003 Coll. as amended and its implementing Decree No. 29/2004 Coll., as amended, Decree no. 393/2013 Coll. and Decree No. 132/2014 Coll. on marketing of forest reproductive material and protection and reproduction of forest tree genetic resources through the National Program in conservation and the reproduction of forest tree gene pool in the Czech Republic. The basis for legislation on marketing of forest reproductive material is a European Directive No. 1999/105/EC on marketing of forest reproductive material.

**General approach**
The use of genetically and morphologically suitable forest reproductive material in artificial forest reproduction and afforestation is a condition for improving the health of forests, conservation of biological diversity and the fulfilment of all production and non-production functions of forests.

The Forest Management Institute (FMI) operates the Evidence of Reproductive Material (ERMA) data system containing the list of issued master certificates of reproductive material, the register of holders of licenses, announced by the central register of gene pools and register of recognized sources of forest reproductive material of the Czech Republic (partially publicly accessible). The aforementioned National Program is accompanied by providing subsidies to forest owners for protecting and conserving genetic resources of forest species.

**Assessment** Implemented
### ACTION 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>EUROPEAN 2020 TARGETS: IX. Effective measures are taken at regional, sub-regional and national levels to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National and Regional Scope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Forestry and Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Adopted and existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>EU Timber Regulation is implemented through national act No. 226/2013 coll., on placing timber and timber products on the market. FLEGT Regulation is implemented through national act No. 17/2012 Coll., on the Customs Administration Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>Act No. 226/2013 specifies the institutions and competence scheme and describes the sanction system. Act No. 17/2012 specifies competences for verifying certification from third country by Customs in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. EUTR and FLEGT work together to combat illegal logging and improve forest governance as a part of the EU’s FLEGT Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Implemented, active</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### ACTION 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>Methodology of socio-economic valuation of forest services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Lisbon Resolution L1; Vienna Resolution V2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>L1: General Guidelines, paragraph 5: The marketed and non-marketed cultural, social and environmental services of forests should be assessed and their contribution to society and sustainable rural development should be integrated in the overall policies and programmes of forests and other sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>Academic work: Šišák et al. 2006 – Methodology of socio-economic valuation of forest services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>The methodology (Šišák et al. 2006) is based on the fact that forest services form a complex social (socio-economic) system. In observing the character of many forest services’ systems it is obvious that their structure is not and cannot be stabilized because it is formed considering different objectives and purposes, at different places and times, in different social conditions. Forest services’ systems are always purpose-built. Methods of socio-economic valuation of forest services are differentiated by their socio-economic content, purpose of use and data availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Thus far used for research purposes and expert assessments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACTION 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of action</th>
<th>National Forest Inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of resolution</td>
<td>Lisbon Resolution L2 - annex 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Criterion 3, para 4, bullet point 1: improve technologies and plans based on proper forest inventories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental area</td>
<td>Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (and forecast)</td>
<td>existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework</td>
<td>The implementation of the National Forest Inventory is enshrined in Article 28 of Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on forests and on amendments to certain Acts (the Forest Act). Implementation of the NFI first cycle was approved by the Government Regulation No. 193/2000 Coll., and the second cycle by the Regulation No. 247/2009 Coll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General approach</td>
<td>NFI is an independent survey on the state and development of forests. The NFI aim is to provide comprehensive data on the state of forests in the Czech Republic, both in terms of environmental sustainability and in terms of economic use. The Czech Republic belongs to the European states that have carried out the NFI over several decades. NFI is based on mathematical-statistical basis, which allows an objective and independent assessment of the actual state and development of forests in the Czech Republic.</td>
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<td><strong>ACTION 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description of action</strong></td>
<td>Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber (Hamburg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of resolution</strong></td>
<td>Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
<td>GOAL 8: Illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
<td>National, European, Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental area</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status (and forecast)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework</strong></td>
<td>German Timber Trade Safeguard Act based on EUTR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General approach</strong></td>
<td>Under the EUTR, placing illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the EU market is prohibited. Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber is a central contact facility for government agencies, timber trade, consumers, associations and international certification systems to verify wood species or wood products and their origin through microscopic wood identification and by genetic tests in order to verify the declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>The competence centre is able to determine wood samples accurately at a genus or species level and can check claims on the geographical origin of an increasing number of tree types. The experts at the Thünen Competence Centre have already gathered substantial data and sample base of tree species and genetic codes and cooperate internationally with other scientific facilities and are developing partnerships in relevant countries to enlarge the data basis. The huge request for information concerning proofing species or origin illustrates their relevance. (<a href="http://www.ti.bund.de/en/infrastructure/the-thuenen-centre-of-competence-on-the-origin-of-timber">www.ti.bund.de/en/infrastructure/the-thuenen-centre-of-competence-on-the-origin-of-timber</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of action</td>
<td>General Comments on the implementation of Forest Europe commitments and resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| General comments      | Throughout the years, commitments made within FOREST EUROPE have definitely influenced forest-related developments (management tools and instruments, legislation, methodologies, etc.) in Portugal. We feel that, altogether, this has been, and still is, an overall success story. Just to name a few examples of resolutions that have most prominently guided our work: Helsinki 1 (SFM) and Helsinki 2 (Conservation of the biodiversity), Lisbon 2 (C&I and operational level guidelines) and Vienna 1 (NFP).

These resolutions have decisively influenced not only the development of the Portuguese Forest Policy Act (1996) and forest-related legislation, but also forest management tools and methodologies.

We believe that by adjusting FOREST EUROPE recommendations and guidelines to our own realities and specificities, we have become much better prepared for the current challenges that forests are facing as well as the emerging needs forests that we have to respond to. We consider the commitments are balanced when it comes to encompassing the so-called 3 pillars of sustainability and that they have provided a timely European reaction and interpretation to forest-related global commitments and recommendations. We also consider that, although they are sometimes difficult to clearly identify or individualize as a result of FOREST EUROPE commitments, firm and straightforward steps have been taken at a national level by Portugal with a view to achieve the Goals for European Forests as well as the European 2020 Targets. Finally, Portugal underlines the fact that, although voluntary in nature, many countries around Europe have generally implemented FOREST EUROPE commitments, approved related legislation (when and wherever appropriate) and adjusted updated their management tools. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of action</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name of resolution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status (and forecast)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**General approach**

NFP SR is a basic document that guarantees sustainable forest management in the forests. It was approved by the Government of the SR in June 2007. It was worked out for the period by 2020 by formulating 5 strategic goals, 18 priorities and 52 framework objectives. 5 strategic objectives of NFP:

- Support of ecological forest management
- Improvement and protection of the environment
- Improvement quality of life
- Increasing long term competitiveness
- Strengthening cooperation, coordination and communication

NFP was further elaborated in the Action Plan of NFP of SR for a period 2009-2013. This document contains specific responsibilities for realization of measures, deadlines for the realization of measures, financial capacity and funding resources.

**Assessment**

During June 2014, specific measures for forestry policy implementation set up in the Action Plan of National Forest Programme for the period 2009-2013 were evaluated. The results of the AP NLP evaluation show that out of the total number of measures, 53% of measures have been completely implemented and 41% of measures have been partly implemented. Only 5% of specific measures have not been met. Based on this evaluation, as well as based on new forest policy related documents at national and international levels, framework Action plan objectives for the period 2014-2020 have been currently updated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Description of action</strong></th>
<th>Sustainable forest management definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of resolution</strong></td>
<td>L2 Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, revised on Vienna Resolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
<td>Adopt national criteria and indicators - adapt data collection to fulfil - disseminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope</strong></td>
<td>National and regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental area</strong></td>
<td>Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status (and forecast)</strong></td>
<td>Dynamic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal framework</strong></td>
<td>Statistics as a national competence in National Forest Law (Law 43/2003, march 23TH) in collaboration with Autonomous Regions which collect and provide data. Regulation for Forest certification UNE 160.000 (CEPF). Adopted in 2003 and Revised in 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General approach</strong></td>
<td>Apply rational planning tools for SFM and provide knowledge to the society about changes, trends and achievements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>This C&amp;I were adopted at a national level, and, in 2012, an assessment of this C&amp;I was issued and published to present the state of forest and its management in Spain. Most of the Autonomous Regions use these indicators to establish objectives in their Forest Strategies and Programmes and also to inform people about the state of their regional forest. One of the Forest Certification System (PEFC) adopted this C&amp;I in their terms of reference, UNE 160.000, to assess SFM in most of the Spanish forest certificated to date.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEXES

Annex I. Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020

Annex II. Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
Annex I. 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 polices, 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-Europian 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 socioeconomic 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.
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

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.

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.

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.
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.


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 be 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 be 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.
Implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Commitments
National and pan-European actions 2011-2015