Draft Terms of reference

Working group on the future direction of FOREST EUROPE

1. Objective

Maintain, and further develop, the role of FOREST EUROPE as a high-level policy platform for cooperation on forest policies in Europe that can secure and promote sustainable forest management.

2. Scope

The Working Group will focus on the future of FOREST EUROPE as a voluntary process whose mission, as stated in the Oslo Ministerial Decision, is to enhance the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and secure and promotes sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society.

The option of a legally binding agreement will not be discussed in this context.

3. Tasks

- Analyse the achievements of FOREST EUROPE based on the “Review of the MCPFE” (2009), the “Assessment of the achievements and added value of the Forest Europe Process” (2015) and other sources.

- Elaborate proposals on the future work of FOREST EUROPE in order to maintain or enhance its impact on SFM in Europe. Possible options should be described in terms of:

  - Structure and procedures of FOREST EUROPE, addressing, inter alia, the following possible subjects:
    a. Secretariat, coordinating/steering body and working modalities.
    b. Financing the process.
    c. The format of the ministerial conference.

  - The content of the process.

  - Describing how, and in what way, FOREST EUROPE may contribute to the follow-up of global processes, i.e UNFF.
4. Participation

The Working Group will be open-ended, with participation from FOREST EUROPE signatories and observer organisations and countries.

5. Expected Output

The Working Group should produce a report on its findings and recommendations.

6. Process and working methods

- Two countries will co-chair the working group.
- The working group will gather at least two times along the end 2015 and 2016.
- LU Bratislava will provide organisational and technical assistance.

7. Timeline

The working group will finalise its work in October 2016 and present its report to the first ELM thereafter.