



Draft Roadmap for the deliberations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE

1. Background

The Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015. Important achievements are recognised during the work of the ministers responsible for forest policies in Europe through the cooperation within FOREST EUROPE. It is time to consider what to keep and what to change. Ministers decided at the 7th Ministerial Conference on 20-21 October 2015 in Madrid to review the FOREST EUROPE process, specially its structure, procedures and work modalities reflecting on the lessons learnt, in order to make it more effective and inclusive, with the specificities set out in forthcoming Terms of Reference and Roadmap to be agreed at the first Expert Level Meeting held after the 7th Ministerial Conference, on 11-12 May 2016.

The mission of FOREST EUROPE, as agreed by ministers at the 6th Ministerial Conference in Oslo in 2011, is to enhance the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and secure and promote sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society.

This mission is still guiding the work on the future of FOREST EUROPE, but it should now be considered how to fulfil this mission in the best way in the future.

2. Roadmap

The Liaison Unit Bratislava supported by the GCC drafts the Terms of Reference of a Working Group to be presented to the ELM held on 11-12 May 2016 for discussion and adoption, and two countries that will serve as co-chairs of the Working Group will be appointed.

1. The first meeting of the Working Group will be held in autumn 2016.
2. The last meeting of the Working Group will be held in the second half of 2017.
3. The outcomes of the Working Group will be presented to an ELM at the end of 2017 which will decide on appropriate actions.