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Union of European Foresters

The Presidency Letter

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The President words

The Governing Council meeting of UEF in Austria 15th to 19th of October was a positive and successful meeting. We made history, because UEF got three new member organisations in the same meeting! Our new member organisations are PROFOR from Spain, the Albanian Forest Specialists Association (AFSA) and the Association of Danish Masters of Forestry (DFF). A warm welcome to the new members and I hope for an active participation in the work for the best of the foresters in Europe!

The UEF declaration on the European Forest Week was received very well and was distributed at the meetings of the Forest Week in Rome. The arrangements around the GCM were perfect, for which our colleagues in Verband Österreichischer Förster should have a warm thank you.

The workgroup under the Standing Forestry Committee for valuation and compensation of non-wood forest goods will soon send the final report to the SFC. After that it is possible to distribute the report with my comments about the work to the members of UEF. Questions important for the foresters in Europe are observed in the report.

The 10th of December there will be two seminars in Brussels about entrepreneurship in the rural development and illegal logging. The next day, 11th of December, the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork will have a meeting. I look forward to two interesting days in Brussels! The Congress of UEF will be arranged in only six months. Very important decisions will be taken at the Congress. We will decide about the Action Plan, elect the President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer as well as Auditors for the next four years. I ask you all to work actively for having a successful Congress with many participants in Poland next June.

Season's Greetings to all members of UEF!

HN.

Presidency news

New ways of UEF Exchange activities?

International forestal exchange activities are always connected with some typical problems. International fieldtrips are long distance fieldtrips. That's why they are more expensive than usual fieldtrips.

But the most important problem seems to be that UEF activities are organised on a voluntary base. Hosts and guests are busy in their main jobs and many occasions do not take place, because there is a lack of time.

During a MEOL fieldtrip of Finish forest students in spring 2008 to the forest district of *Kastellaun* in Germany, the idea was born to create a (cheap) permanent fieldtrip offer for groups with 15 persons 2 or 3 times every year. Each fieldtrip should last 4-5 days and their should be an interesting forestal programme. The idea is to combine a high quality programme with less effort by involving several people in the organisation of the fieldtrip and by using the same concept, which is prepared once, for different visitor groups.

The fieldtrips should be offered for low costs, because students and foresters from areas with lower incomes should also be able to attend.

Therefore, the location is chosen near a low cost airport, with cheap flight connections around Europe. We are additionally looking for some external funds. First talks about an official cooperation between the state forest organisation of Rhineland-Palatinate and an important private foundation took place. It seems that UEF should at least be accepted as an official supporter, who is caring about the international contacts, while the main partners of cooperation are responsible for personal, organisation and some funding.

Because the negotiations are still going on, it is much too early to talk about details. Maybe the final proposal with all details (finances, programme, etc.) will be accepted till the next weeks. But even if this special project will not come to a successful end, it should be a good example for all member organisations to think about similar projects.

MD.

Director : Håkan Nystrand, President

Editor : Hervé Némoz-Rajot, Assistant secretary

Our activities :

The Expert Level Meeting of MCPFE and the UEF participation 12–13 November 2008, Geneva, Switzerland



The MCPFE is in the process of developing “Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation with a special focus on the provisions of the UNFCCC”. This task is being carried out in cooperation with the Environment for Europe process and its Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The drafting meeting on Pan-European afforestation and reforestation guidelines, was held on 16-17 September, 2008, Malahide, Ireland and the draft text was agreed. The draft was presented and discussed on the Expert Level Meeting in Geneva.

The next document presented on the ELM was “Draft Terms of Reference” of an open ended ad-hoc working group on sustainability criteria for forest biomass production, including bio energy. The aim of the working group is to analyze the applicability and adequacy of the existing MCPFE guidelines and tools for SFM, with a view to reveal needs for updating or revision.

The ELM approved the report on Sustainable forest management in the Pan-European region - achievements, challenges and planned actions in relation to issues to be addressed at UNFF8. The report has been jointly prepared by MCPFE, UNECE/FAO, the European Forest Institute (EFI), and the EFE/PEBLDS in response to an invitation from the secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). It presents a summary of Pan-European achievements, major developments, challenges and plans for future actions on sustainable forest management in relation to issues that will be addressed at the Eight Session of the UNFF, 20 April–1 May 2009.

All documents can be found on <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/meetings/2008/elm2>

PG.

Don't forget the XVII th UEF Congress in Poland in June 2009

XVII UEF CONGRESS will be held in the State Forests educational center in Jedlnia - Poland on 4 –8 June 2009. The center is located about 110 km on south from Warsaw.

The main theme is “Protection of Habitats and Species in Forests under Active Management –Focus on Natura 2000”. The SITLiD and the State Forests in Poland cordially invite all the UEF member organizations to Poland.

All needed information will be publish soon find on the UEF web page.

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Our UEF Agenda: UEF Round Table Meeting in Brussels

The Presidency will organize and welcome the UEF guests in our new office in Brussels, the next 28 th of January 2009. The theme for the meeting will be "climate change and the forests". More information in our homepage and in our congress.

H N-R.

Director : Håkan Nystrand, President

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