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Union of European Foresters

The Presidency Letter

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The President words

We will meet in Poland at a moment when the forest sector face challenging times. The problems in the forest sector are partly connected to the global economy situation, but we have also for years seen own sectorial problems specially in the field of paper and other end products. The basic conditions for the sector are good and we should despite all question marks now look positively at the future.

We should now take positive positions in efforts to broaden the business making and forest use. We cannot afford to miss any of the possibilities that the forests offer as a unique environment and a renewing source for the daily life.

The targets of EU fighting the climate change and promoting the use of bio energy are very challenging. The preparatory process for the global climate meeting in December in Copenhagen is in an active stage. Europe and EU is here only one of the actors among others. Whatever will be the final outcome about the goals for fighting the global warming and developing emission trade systems the forests and the wood will be in a very important position.

The EU Parliament has started discussions how to fight wood and wood products from illegally logged areas. There is still a big risk that this process will lead to new bureaucracy for the whole sector. It is now important for us all in our contacts to point out all the good national legislations, chains of custody and forest certification systems that already exist. Fighting illegal logging should not cause more paperwork for the actors having clear papers, but focus on the problem areas. It is expected that this will be one of the hot potatoes waiting the new members of the EU Parliament. UEF will be active in this question also in the future.

Six of the seven members have informed about their candidacy for the new UEF Presidency.

Presidency news

It is time for the young generation !

The coming congress in Poland will be my last duty during my 14 years of presidential work in the UEF. My entrance to the Presidency was in Poland in Gdansk in 1995 and my service will now stop at a congress likewise in Poland.

Do not doubt it a split-second ! I would very much like to carry on in the Presidency ! It is however my strong belief, that the young generation of European foresters must be enabled now to participate within the UEF and take action on European forestry matters. At the Governing Council Meeting last year in Denmark, where a number of enthusiastic and young students from Denmark were servicing and helping the participants of the Governing Council meeting, I pointed out to all, that the achievements and performance of the students showed us all, that it would be fruitful and productive for the Presidency to have direct participation from the young generation of foresters.

The conclusion about the value of the young generation is my reason for now stopping in the Presidency. It is therefore my sincere hope, that my departure from UEF will enable a young forester to become member of the Presidency.

It has during all years been a great experience to get in touch with so many devoted foresters from all Europe and especially the process of expanding UEF to member states from the former Eastern Europe has been very interesting and eye-opening. The warm hospitality and the eagerness of the foresters from Eastern Europe to join our European network will always be warmly remembered by me.

I hope to see many of you in Poland within short time !
Best regards!

Niels Christiansen

Vice President Niels Christiansen has announced that he will not be a candidate at the Congress. In the context that UEF has got seven new member organisations in four years I look forward to activity also thinking about composing the new Presidency at the Congress. Let us all meet in Poland!

HN.

Director : Håkan Nystrand, President

Editor : Hervé Némoy-Rajot, Assistant secretary

Our activities :

UEF XVII Congress in Jedlnia (Poland) 4-8 June 2009

The congress will take place in the **Ecology Education Center of State Forests**, located in **Jedlnia**, near Radom. Besides its normal work days with education and training of pupils, teachers, foresters etc., it is famous as a place where every year in the middle of May the special and original event occurs. This event is called **The forget-me-not Day**.

Radom, with its total population of 225 000 inhabitants, the nearest and the biggest city, is the capital of Radom Region. Radom proper and its history began in early Middle Ages.

The Swietokrzyski National Park was established on the first of May 1950. It covers the central, best-preserved part of the Swietokrzyskie Mountains (The Holy Cross Mountains). The mountains take their name from an old Benedictine Abbey, that is located on the Lysa Mountain. These mountains are, beside the Sudety Mountains, the oldest Polish mountain formations, and are built from Paleozoic rocks.

The Swietokrzyski National Park is one of the few national parks in Poland, which besides its beautiful nature and landscapes, boasts many architectural monuments. Among the most valuable is the complex of the former Benedictine abbey on Lysa Gora, called Swiety Krzyz (Holy Cross).

It includes the Baroque-Neo-classical church built in 1781-1789, the Gothic cloister from the 15th century with a fragment from the 12th century, the Romanesque wall, and the Olesnicki Chapel (early 17th century), which contains the Holy Cross relic. Today, the west wing of the monastery houses the Research Laboratory and the Park's Museum. The oldest preserved piece of Polish religious prose from the 13th/14th century, known as the Swietokrzyskie Sermons, is associated with the monastery.



Kazimierz on the Vistula – Kazimierz Dolny is a pearl of the Renaissance. Kazimierz Dolny is a small town in eastern Poland, on the right (eastern) bank of the Vistula river in Puławy County, Lublin Province.

The Agenda of our congress is available on our home page: www.european-foresters.org

You can download it easily.

On the 5th of June, our annual seminar day will take place, about "Protection of Habitats and Species in Forests under Active Management –Focus on Natura 2000". Some national presentations will give us pieces of information about this topic.

On the 6th of June, our 17th UEF Congress day will permit us to have a look at our results since the last Congress in Freising in Germany (2005). A new UEF actions plan will be adopted by your delegates for the next 4 years.

A new Presidency will be elected to be able to follow the work and to make real our new actions plan.

On the 7th of June, a field tour will show every participant a part of the Polish forests, specially in the Swietokrzyski National Park.

See you soon in Poland!

If you'll not be able to be there, you'll find quickly in our homepage the minutes of our Congress.

PG. and HNR.