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Union of European Foresters

The Presidency Letter

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The President words

The mid-term evaluation of the EU Forest Action Plan was recently presented and was also discussed in January at the meeting of the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork. The implementation of the plan is of course half way, but on the track. Following the implementation in the member states has partly been difficult because of missing routines in the follow up systems of the different types of national forest action plans. The public communication about what the forest sector has done for the FAP could also be better.

Now the process for the new Forest Action Plan period and the updating of the EU Forest Strategy (1988) should start. In this connection we should also discuss the situation of the forest matters generally in the European Union. Today the questions important for the foresters and forest sector are spread around within the European Union. It is now the right moment to look at the future for handling the forest matters in the EU. To me discussion only about a better coordination is not enough now. How to get stronger links between the different questions having an impact on the forest sector?

The Commission will soon also present a “green paper” about the state of the forest conservation/protection. So far no further information is given out about this paper. This will be an opening of a discussion about the future steps in this area. Responsible for this document is DG Environment.

. The question about illegally logged timber coming into the market (FLEGT) in EU is proceeding during the Spring.

The President words (Part 2)

The question is now what a position the new Parliament will take. In parallel with the process in the Council and the Parliament the preparation for the possible new situation will now start in the member states

In this situation it is important that UEF members are active and follow the national situations. The best solution for the wood harvested in the EU area would be if the normal procedures for cutting permissions could be used also in this context and that the FLEGT would not cause new bureaucracy into the forestry.

I have participated in a meeting in Helsinki arranged by the European Parliament about the situation after the climate summit in Copenhagen. As we all know no binding agreement was reached at the meeting in December. However the process about fighting climate change is going on all the time and new preparatory meetings for the next summit at the end of this year is arranged.

For us foresters it is important, what also was said in our statements and press releases in connection to the summit – “Forest experts are committed to supporting a global process, which fully recognizes the possibilities for forests and wood in fighting climate change”.

Coming on a global level the question about forest and wood gets complicated because of so different conditions in different parts of the world. UEF will go on following and working for a good result in this process.

As a summary I can say, that the coming months and years will be very interesting and important concerning forest matters in Europe and globally. The Presidency will go on with a high activity level and we need all the member organizations with us in this work.

I look forward to see you all in France in June at the Governing Council Meeting! I am sure we will have a good meeting with wise decisions in important things for the foresters in Europe.

HN.

Our activities :

UEF Governing Council Meeting in Annecy - France 10-13 June 2010

The Presidency of UEF and the French EFA –CGC are glad to invite you to join our next Governing Council Meeting in France, in Annecy, in the French Alps.

A seminar will be organized, as an occasion to discuss about mountain forest all over Europe and to adopt an UEF position about it.

A forest field tour, all the Saturday long, will be organized near Chamonix and the Mont Blanc. We'll see the forests around this famous tourist place, with all the problems for foresters to manage production of wood, biodiversity and other social demands.

The registration is open now in our homepage (www.european-foresters.eu) and there are only 60 guests possible.

The dead line for registration is the 15th of April, if there is still available rooms.

All the program and information about accommodation and travel are in our homepage.

See you soon in Annecy for a fruitful and nice UEF GCM, in June!



HNR.

XIV. International Forestry Work camp

In the period from 3. July to 1. August the International Forestry Work camp will be held once against under the partnership of UEF in the Forest district of Kastellaun in Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany).

Forest students from all over the world are invited to participate.

UEF will at least give an additional support to two participants coming from UEF member organizations by paying an additional travel expenses subsidy.

Requests are to be submitted to the UEF Presidency over the member organizations.

Detailed information can be found under <http://www.wald-rlp.de/index.php?id=397&L=2>

MD.

Our Next Round table meeting in Brussels

The next Union of European Foresters Round Table Meeting will be held in Brussels at the Forestry House as a lunch meeting on the 11th of May 2010. Persons from the Commission and the organizations active in Brussels will together with the UEF Presidency informally discuss the forest matters that are on the table in the European Union at the moment

HN.