



## CEPF Members Update 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2009

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### Political developments

#### Discussion on a new policy instrument for forests in Europe

The MCPFE initiative on a legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in the pan-European region has entered into its final stage. The current focus is on the content for a possible legally binding agreement on forests, its implication on the EU forest related activities as well as on other global and European agreements, bodies and processes, along with scenarios for institutional setup and general costs assessment.

At the most recent meeting of the MCPFE Working Group, held in Rome on 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> September, participants stressed out that SFM must be defined as the core element of a LBA. Issues such as forest fires and natural disasters, trade and ecosystem services were also seen as being crucial for such an instrument. A draft report with recommendations on LBA options, appropriate processes for establishing a LBA and further actions to be taken will be presented in an additional meeting called for the 7<sup>th</sup> of October in Brussels. Finally, these will be discussed by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting in Oslo in the end of November.

The European Commission has carried out another project exploring a policy options for European forests. Recently the Standing Forest Committee was informed on the work towards future solutions for forest protection and information. A study launched by the Commission reflects on the possible future measures to protect EU forests against harmful impacts. It provides an indicative list of options for forest protection including establishing a stable and permanent structure for forest monitoring, working towards a complete forest protection framework. These reflect on the rumours on a new initiative by the DG Environment, a “green paper on forestry”. The implications of all of these point to the



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CEPF liaison office Brussels

European Forestry House • Rue du Luxembourg 66 • B-1000 Bruxelles  
Phone +32 2 219 02 31 • Fax +32 2 219 21 91 • e-mail [office@ccpf-eu.org](mailto:office@ccpf-eu.org)

forestry sector is being about to engage in a serious debate on policy instruments for European forests. It is imperative that this shall not happen without the presence of the people with a direct connection to forests.

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

## **Project**

### **Final meetings of the EFORWOOD project**

The EFORWOOD Week and the project final conference - Shape Your Sustainability Tools - And Let Your Tools Shape You - will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September in Uppsala, Sweden. The project focused on the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Forest-based Sector. It brought together researchers, policy makers and practitioners. CEPF has been involved in the project for four years and will be represented in the above events. We will report on the project outcome in the next issue of the Members Update. Please see more details at: [www.eforwood.org](http://www.eforwood.org)<<http://www.eforwood.org>>.

Further information, Marta Gaworska at [marta.gaworska@cepf-eu.org](mailto:marta.gaworska@cepf-eu.org)

## **Other news**

### **CEPF Board meeting**

The CEPF Board will meet on the 15th of September in Brussels. The meeting will discuss the latest political developments in relation to climate change and energy as well as other ongoing EU activities, such as the regulation on illegal logging. CEPF will provide an update on activities, such as the follow up of Natura 2000 seminar. The Board will also discuss the CEPF strategy for upcoming events including the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark and the World Forestry Congress in Argentina. In addition, the Board will elaborate on the CEPF priorities towards the European parliament, including the policy program and networking activities for 2009 – 2014.

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **Launching work on forest disasters**

CEPF working group on forest disaster is about to begin its work. A call to nominate an expert was sent out to our members in August. The group will explore the implications and required measures for managing the constantly increasing frequency of unexpected natural disasters such as storms, forest fires, droughts and insect diseases.

These measures will include mapping the scope and opportunities of technical advice, financial support and management systems for the regeneration of affected areas. New rapid response mechanism (RRM) guidelines are foreseen to emerge of the work.

The Working Group's 18 month working period will begin in October 2009. The suggested mode of work is mainly online discussion, phone conferences and commenting the written documents.

So far, we have received a nomination of experts from Denmark, Greece, Portugal and Spain. We would like to encourage other CEPF members to provide their contribution.



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CEPF liaison office Brussels

European Forestry House • Rue du Luxembourg 66 • B-1000 Bruxelles  
Phone +32 2 219 02 31 • Fax +32 2 219 21 91 • e-mail [office@cepf-eu.org](mailto:office@cepf-eu.org)

Please inform us also in case if you are not able to participate in the Working Group. Experts on specific issues may be also consulted in the course of the work.

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **Follow up on Conflict Management in the Natura 2000 Network**

Outcome of the workshop on conflict management in the Natura 2000 network, which we reported on previously (*Members Update of 22<sup>nd</sup> of June*), is now available. The project paves the way to voice forest owners' concerns and experiences on the European level. Three more regional level workshops as well as consultation with stakeholders in selected countries are foreseen. The workshops are scheduled for December 2009, January 2010 and February 2010 in three countries. We will inform and encourage CEPF members to participate in those meetings. This project will also be discussed by the CEPF Board at 15<sup>th</sup> of September as part of CEPF follow up on Natura 2000. Please contact Marta to receive the outcome.

Further information, Marta Gaworska at [marta.gaworska@cepf-eu.org](mailto:marta.gaworska@cepf-eu.org)

### **Development of EFI**

Morten participated in The Annual Conference of European Forest Institute (EFI) held in Dublin during the first week of September. This year's meeting attracted a record 150 participants. The 2008 activities, presented in the annual report included information on ratifying the EFI convention and the regionalisation of EFI. A number of regional offices have been established across Europe, such as EFIMED in Barcelona with a focus on Mediterranean forests, EFICIENT in Freiburg and Nancy, working on conversion of conifers to broadleaves and EFICEEC in Vienna with a particular interest in Eastern Europe. Plans for establishing a new regional office EFINORD to deal with Nordic and Baltic forests were presented and adopted.

With 126 member organisations from 46 countries, 60 staff members from 20 countries and with a 6.6 MEUR turnover in 2009, EFI is the leading forest research organisation in Europe. The documentation of the Annual Conference can be downloaded at: [http://www.efi.int/portal/news\\_events/events/extra/2009/efi\\_2009\\_annual\\_conference\\_and\\_scientific\\_seminar/](http://www.efi.int/portal/news_events/events/extra/2009/efi_2009_annual_conference_and_scientific_seminar/)

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **Substituting effects of wood products in climate change mitigation**

The International Conference on Carbon Storage in Wood Products was organised in Brussels on 1<sup>st</sup> of September by the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois). The event focused on how wood products can contribute to climate change mitigation and how the substitution effects of wood should be used in an accounting system like the Kyoto protocol.

The value of harvested wood products (HWP) has been recognized by many countries. The diverging effects of the suggested accounting methods on national Greenhouse Gas inventories have postponed the inclusion of wood products in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The conference was a final call for all partners in the wood value chain, including forest owners, to develop a global action plan in support of inclusion of



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wood products in the second commitment period of the Kyoto 2013 - 2017. The workshops' presentations are available at: <http://users.ugent.be/~jvdbulck/>

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **CEPF president at the EESC Conference**

The CEPF's President Christer Segerstéen is invited to the European Economic and Social Committee conference to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September in Joensuu, Finland. The theme of the meeting is: *Facing the challenge – change in forests and the forestry sector. The case of North Karelia - key issues of change for the forestry cluster*. Mr. Segerstéen will address participants during the session on the role of forest in climate change.

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **CEPF invited to EVOLTREE workshop**

On 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September Morten will represent CEPF in stakeholders' workshop for EVOLTREE project, to be held in Vienna. This is a large EU-funded network of researchers analyzing the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems.

### **Working Group meetings in Brussels**

Two ad hoc working Group of Standing Forest Committee will meet in Brussels this month. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ad hoc SFC **WG on public procurement of wood and wood products** will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> September. This will be followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ad hoc SFC **WG on forestry and climate change**, scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.

In addition, **the Advisory Committee of the Forest Technology Platform** will meet on 15<sup>th</sup> of September in the European Forestry House. CEPF as the founding confederations of the Platform has two seats in this Committee.

Further information, Morten Thorøe at [morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org](mailto:morten.thoroe@cepf-eu.org)

### **Shifting time for trainees**

New trainees have started working at CEPF office in Brussels this autumn.

- Ms. Ilze Locane comes from Latvia where she studies landscape architecture and planning at the Latvian University of Agriculture.
- Ms. Caroline Boström is from Sweden, and she is in the process of finishing her Masters thesis in forestry at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Their traineeship will last until December 2009. You can reach Ilze at [trainee2@cepf-eu.org](mailto:trainee2@cepf-eu.org) and Caroline at [trainee1@cepf-eu.org](mailto:trainee1@cepf-eu.org).

Ms. Annika Valentin, who has been with us during the summer, will return to Germany soon. She will continue her Masters programme at University in Göttingen. Before that she will represent CEPF at the Forests Dialogue meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September in Nepal.

Also Mr. Pablo Almarcha has concluded his period, and gone back to Spain during the summer. Pablo will continue to work for our Spanish member organisation COSE, hence supporting CEPF activities on Mediterranean Forests.

We thank you all for your engagement and outstanding work.

