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Union of European Foresters

# The Presidency Letter

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## The President words

The activities of the Union of European Foresters since the Congress and 40 years celebrations in Freising, Germany in June 2005 have aimed for creating a more wellknown UEF with a good influence on the matters important for the foresters of Europe.

The preparing process of the Forest Action Plan of the European Union has given opportunities for UEF to be visible and have impact on the preparing process. In the Autumn the President was a speaker in a hearing about the Action Plan arranged by the Committee of the Regions. The hearing was arranged in Rovaniemi, Finland. The UEF was also in a visible role at the seminar about the Action Plan arranged in Nancy, France in February. The major part of the Presidency was present and the President was the conclusion speaker of the seminar.

This year Round Table Meeting of UEF was arranged in connection to a Presidency meeting in Brussels in March. We had a good participation both from the Commission and the forest organisations active in Brussels. The main discussion themes of this meeting were the matters of the Forest Action Plan and the future of bioenergy.

Being active and visible in the matters of the foresters of Europe means that UEF has good chances to grow. I am happy that UEF will get new members at our coming Governing Council Meeting 2006. I am also convinced, that we also in the future will be able to welcome more new members into the UEF.

I hope to meet as many as possible of you at our coming GCM in Bulgaria 27.6 – 2.7.2006!

Håkan Nystrand

## Presidency news

**The UEF Governing Council Meeting in Sofia (June 27-July 02, 2006)** was prepared by the UEF Presidency as follows:

The Presidency set up the program of Governing Council Meeting together with the Bulgarian hosts;

It was asked to all UEF members organisation to present an informing about „Forest Management and Forestry Methods” during the Seminary from June 28 in Sofia. The reports should be sent to the UEF Secretariat until April 20.

It was sent to all UEF members the invitation to confirm their presence at the GCM in Sofia to the Bulgarian hosts;

The Presidency has sent an official invitation to forestry organizations from Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Croatia and Hungary in order to participate at the GCM in Sofia;

The Presidency has invited Mrs. Veronique Mathieu, the President of forestry Sub-group in European Parliament, to attend to the UEF GCM in Sofia; but she wasn't able to be present in Sofia.

At this GCM in Sofia it will be discussed the affiliation of SINDSILVA, Republic of Moldova and Union of Austrian Foresters.

**The UEF Secretary will continue archiving of the UEF materials.** Based on the documents received from the former UEF Secretary, it's been archived until now the main UEF events from 1993-2005; the archive is to be computerized to be posted on UEF site. It was asked to UEF members to send to UEF Secretary any material or documents in order to complete the archive.

The UEF Secretariat will create a database regarding problems of UEF members in order to be presented and discussed during the Presidency Meetings.

MS

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# Our activities

## UEF Round Table Meeting, the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork

The EU-authorities are lying their final efforts in finalizing the “Forestry Action Plan”. It will be presented to the Commission this summer and the UEF has via the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork and by direct contact to the authorities been proactive and influential in the process.

This year’s UEF Round Table Meeting in Brussels was arranged in March. The Commission was well represented by persons from DG Agri, DG Environment, DG Enterprise and DG Research. The Round Table meeting discussed the preparation of the EU Forest Action Plan and the future of the bioenergy.

Under the Austrian presidency a lunchseminar was arranged in February in Brussels about the Forest Action Plan. The President participated and had a short speech about the willingness of the Union of European Foresters to be active in the processes of the forest and environmental matters in the European Union.

For more information about the meetings connected to the EU Forest Action Plan, please also read The President words.  
**NC+HN**

## Exchange activities

Since our last Congress in Freising there has been only a few exchange activities between UEF member organizations and no new exchange offers were published on our homepage during the winter time. In order to intensify the exchange activities (especially between forest students) the Presidency renewed the contact to IFSA (International Forest Student Association) and offered all UEF member organizations the possibility to send forest students to our next Governing Council Meeting in Bulgaria for a 150€-reduced participation fee (1 student for every member organization).

Additionally negotiations with the state forest organization of Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany) and the SDW (Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald) were started. Following the decisions taken in Freising UEF is planning to participate in a cooperation project “**International Forest Workcamp**”. The workcamp, which is held annually in summer, has been established 10 years ago and is bringing together forest students from all over the world. Detailed and pictured informations about the project and the location can be found under <http://www.wald-rlp.de/index.php?id=397&L=2> and <http://www.wald-rlp.de/index.php?id=375>. Participating in the project UEF will be enabled to offer students of all UEF member organizations a permanent exchange facility.

**MD**

## Educational matters

UEF is still involved in two special projects dealing with educational matters. The **EU-funded project PAWS** is stimulating foresters’ participation in nature interpretation. UEF is supporting the PAWS project from the beginning of the project and is represented in the PAWS advisory board, which has met on the 7th of April in Bonn (Germany). Meanwhile four newsletters of the project have been published in several languages, which are available as downloads on our homepage. More informations about the project are available under <http://www.paws.daa-bbo.de/>.

The **project “European Network of Waldpädagogik”** is going on as well. UEF is supporting this project and all UEF member organisations has been asked in February to name contact persons as members of the network, who are engaged in nature-interpretation.

**MD**



## Homepage matters

The presidency is constantly trying to keep our homepage updated and informative. It is however necessary to remind all members that it is also necessary for every member organisation to make sure that their national part of the homepage is updated as well and usable. Several organisations haven’t done their homework in that respect for a very long time and this ought to be otherwise.

**NC**