



www.european-foresters.org

Union of European Foresters

The Presidency Letter

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The President words

The Governing Council Meeting in Bulgaria 27th of June to 2nd of July 2006 showed once again how important for the foresters of Europe it is to meet for discussions and exchange of information about the matters that are of common interest for us all.

The days in Bulgaria and specially the forest seminar day, showed that the forestry and forest organizations in many places in Europe just now go through a phase of change. Among the foresters this is in many cases causing concerns about the future. These things are usually to be handled by our member organizations on a national level. Although we in UEF also have an important role in taking care of the interests of the foresters on a European level. By actively working with the most important forest matters on the EU-level, we can on our side meet the challenges that the changes in structures cause for the foresters. In times of changes, it is also important for UEF to continue to be the forum for foresters to exchange information about what is happening on the national level.

I am happy that the Governing Council Meeting 2006 could decide about two new member organizations of UEF. The membership of the Union of Austrian Foresters from Austria and SINDSILVA from Republic of Moldova is again a big step forward in the right direction. Our organization is growing and thereby also the visibility in the European forestry. I am sure that we will welcome more new members also in the future.

Håkan Nystrand

(to follow, pto)

Presidency news

UEF projects

UEF is getting more and more active in concrete projects on European level.

Because the participation of NGO's in EU funded projects is mandatorily, requests for cooperation of UEF in forest projects on European level are constantly growing. UEF is represented in the advisory group of the **project PAWS**, which is stimulating foresters participation in nature interpretation. The latest newsletter was published in September and can be downloaded from the UEF Homepage.

The project "**European Network of Waldpädagogik**" deals with nature interpretation and develops as well.

For a few weeks, UEF has been involved in a new project named **EFORWOOD**. It was represented in the stakeholder meeting on the 13th of September in the Abbey Rolduc, Kerkrade, near Maastricht (NL).

EFORWOOD is a four-year integrated project, funded under the EU "Global change and ecosystems" research activity of the Sixth Framework Programme. The homepage is www.eforwood.com.



EFORWOOD

The objectives of EFORWOOD are to develop a quantitative decision support tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment of the European Forestry- Wood Chain (FWC), including (eg regional), covering forestry, industrial manufacturing, consumption and recycling.

After signing the cooperation agreement about the **International Forestry Work camp** with the state forest organization of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald in July, UEF is now able to offer a permanent exchange facility for forest students, which is yearly held during summertime in Germany.

But the exchange activities (especially between forest students) could be much more intensified and therefore all member organizations are asked to participate with special projects.

MD

The President words (the end)

The Forest Action Plan of the European Union has now been approved and I am happy to see, that UEF could give a good contribution to this process. Now it is on the responsibility of the EU Commission and us all to put the actions mentioned in the plan forward. Specially the future of the bio energy is interesting and I hope this sector will bring new possibilities for all of us. It is also in the interest of the foresters that the new and innovative actions by the forest industry sector will be successful.

Once again a warm thank you to our member organizations **Union of Bulgarian Foresters** and **Bulprofor** for arranging a successful Governing Council Meeting. Our appreciation and thank you for supporting these arrangements also goes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the National Forestry Board in Bulgaria.

Next year we will meet at the Governing Council Meeting in Denmark. But before that, the Presidency will continue its operative work for the best of the foresters and forestry in Europe.

HN

Our activities

News about the UEF homepage www.european-foresters.org

In order to be able to maintain a lively and updated homepage it is of high importance that all the member organizations make sure that their national part of the homepage is constantly updated. It's sad to read the dates of the last updated information. Many organizations have information of more than 4 years of age.

Please immediately look into the matter and if you have problems with that updating, contact vice President, Niels Christiansen (ncr@sns.dk).

In connection with the introduction of the EU-domain name, the Presidency tried to obtain two additional and corresponding domain names for our present homepage. We succeeded in obtaining www.european-foresters.eu but we did not succeed in obtaining www.uef.eu, which is already used by a private firm.

NC

What about our Secretary and Romanian activities?

The minutes of the UEF GCM from Sofia-Bulgaria 29 June 2006 was sent to all UEF members.

On behalf of the Romanian foresters it was sent, according to the UEF Statute, a solidarity message to the German foresters from Bavaria for supporting their efforts in obtaining an essential law for Bavarian forest and foresters.

Experience exchanges between UEF members were continued :

- between Romanian and Bulgarian foresters – visit of a delegation of Union of Bulgarian Foresters in Danube Delta in Romania (15 – 19 of August 2006)
- between Romanian and Polish foresters – visit of a delegation from SITLID in Romania (28 of August – 1 of September 2006)
- between Romanian and German foresters – meetings of Consilva delegation with BDF representatives from Bavaria (7 of October 2006), with the BDF representatives from Hessen and with the UEF vice-president Michael Diemer (9 of October 2006)

We can also notice a meeting of the Consilva delegation with Mr. Robin du Parc, director of Forest Department of European Forest Landowners on 8 october 2006 in Brussels.

MS

Please remember our 2007 GCM in Denmark!

Our next Governing Council Meeting will take place in Herning (Denmark) from 29 of August to 2 of September 2007. The first announcement, with all details and checking information, will be sent at the beginning of 2007 by our Danish colleagues. We hope that we can meet us there.

Please, book now this week in your diary and have a look at our homepage for more details.

HNR