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Union of European Foresters

# The Presidency Letter

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## The President words

Our Governing Council Meeting in Denmark was good, both thinking about the programme and the practical arrangements. Specially I noticed the interest of the member organisations in how we are active in the forest matters on the EU level. UEF is active on many levels in EU and GCM is the correct meeting to tell the member organisations about this also in the future. Thank you once again to DSL for good arrangements of the Governing Council Meeting.

In the beginning of November UEF participated in the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Warsaw, Poland. The name of this process and conference might be confusing. MCPFE process is dealing with general forest matters and the state of the forests in Europe. The focusing is large, dealing with both economical, ecological and social matters. In addition to the participation of the states of Europe, it is obvious that MCPFE is more and more interesting also for the organisations. UEF was the organisation at the conference representing the professional foresters. It was also a good occasion to spread around our new position paper on bio energy. The arrangements in Poland were very good and professional. It is clear that it is a very important process to participate in, also between the conferences. The next MCPFE Conference will be in Norway after four years.

The Presidency meeting in Croatia in November was interesting, specially it was good for the Presidency members to get to know our new member organisation better. The meeting focused on matters coming up for the Presidency until the next UEF Congress in Poland 2009. The Presidency also met leading persons in the forestry sector of Croatia and had a very interesting excursion day to the Forest Administration in Karlovac and the beautiful National Park of Plitvička Jezera.

## Presidency news

### UEF supports young foresters

Following the decision of the last GCM in Denmark, UEF wants to support young foresters and especially their international exchange.

Sustainable forestry is not least based on sustainable forestry personnel.

In addition to a increasing participation of forestry students at the UEF meetings, forest exchange projects are from high importance.

Since this year UEF is able to offer as a cooperation partner in the Forestry Work camp a yearly exchange facility.

Now it is time to think about further exchange facilities. All member organizations should think about the possibilities to offer an exchange facility.

Individual internships, field trips for small or large groups,...In summer, in winter, in autumn or in spring.

Each proposal is welcomed!

**MD.**

### Our Next Governing Council meeting in Gmunden (Austria)

Every organization member of UEF is kindly invited next year in Austria by our Austrian colleagues. A nice and fruitful meeting will take place in a wonderful place, in Gmunden, between Vienna and Salzburg.

Very soon, an official invitation, with the official program and all kind of information will be available in our home page.

After Herning in Denmark this year, see you soon in Gmunden (16-18 oct 2008)!

**H N-R.**

### The President words (to follow)

A warm thank you for the good arrangements made for the Presidency meeting by our member organisation CFU in Croatia and its President Gordana Colnar and her staff. Because of a very active period in UEF I would not be surprised if the Presidency soon can present new UEF member candidate organisations. The work for the growing UEF is going on all the time.

**I wish you all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2008!**

**H.N**

Director : Håkan Nystrand, President

Editor : Hervé Némoz-Rajot, Assistant secretary

# Our activities : Special MCPEF conference

## 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

5 – 7 November 2007, Warsaw, Poland



The Ministerial Declaration and two Resolutions concluded the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Warsaw. The commitments on promotion of wood as renewable energy carrier and the role of forest in water protection in the context of climate change were adopted by 38 MCPFE signatories for the implementation at a national level.

In the main document of the Conference - **Warsaw Declaration**, countries commit themselves to common activities towards further implementation of sustainable forest management as an indispensable element of sustainable development. The Declaration presents a meaningful role of forests in improving the living standards on our planet and a long-term vision of the future of forests in Europe. Furthermore, it indicates the position of the MCPFE as regional process for contribution in relevant international initiatives on forests.

Given the inevitable consequences of climate change, the ministers adopted two **Warsaw Resolutions**.

**Warsaw Resolution 1 “Forests, wood and energy”** obliges states to increase a role of the forest sector in energy production, and the use of forest biomass for renewable energy and for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as to enhance public and private partnership of forest owners, wood industry and energy producers. At the same time, countries declare to undertake actions towards mobilizing forest resources in the cross-sectored perspective.

**Warsaw Resolution 2 „Forest and water”** draws attention to water resources and stresses the role of forests in protecting the quality and quantity of water, preventing floods, mitigating the effects of draught and counteracting soil erosion.

Additionally, two Ministerial Statements on forest fires in South Europe and an initiative on Pan-European Forest Week in 2008 were adopted by acclamation.

Among the participants of the Conference **the President of UEF Hakan Nystrand and the vice President Piotr Grygier** were taking part in that very important event.

UEF was invited to the Major Group “Social NGOs”. The group consisted of The ENFE (European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs), BWI (Building and Wood Workers’ International), UEF (Union of European Foresters) and PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes). The document called **Mutual statement of the organizations assigned to the Major Group “Social NGOs” to the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the Warsaw Conference** can be found on our Web page.



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