

The President words

Looking back on the last Presidency letter, it becomes clear that climate change is the dominant theme of our time. In the light of the current state of the forest in Europe, I cannot avoid taking up this topic again.

The forest policy discussions in Brussels are almost exclusively concerned with the fight against climate change and the protection of our forests.

The conference "**Our forests, Our Future**" in Brussels once again impressively illustrated the key role that forest management plays in times of climate change and at our next **Governing Council Meeting in June in Switzerland**, the UEF will host the seminar "**Innovations in the forest in times of climate change**" dealing also with this central issue.

However, in all these discussions it remains unclear who should pay for the damage caused to the forest ecosystems and the additional forest management efforts needed to mitigate climate change.

In European legal systems, the polluter pays principle applies and climate change is undeniably caused by society as a whole and not by forest owners and managers. The BDF colleague Thomas Kopp has recently raised the question at a BDF event, whether the forest is systemically relevant.

During the great financial crisis a few years ago, millions of euros have flowed from tax credits to dubious banks, as these had been systemically important. Of course, an expensive rescue package had to be created to keep the system going.

So once against the question: **are European forest ecosystems less relevant for the system** than dubious banks or cheating car industry?

The whole UEF Presidency is pleased to meet you in Switzerland and looks forward to constructive discussions there.

Have a nice spring time, in optimum with a mixed weather, sunny for private activities and rainy for bark beetles!

MD.

UEF governing council in Switzerland in June 2019

For the first time since the beginning of the long UEF history, a Governing Council Meeting will be in Switzerland in June 2019.

The UEF Presidency thanks very much our Swiss UEF member, **Fachverein Wald SIA (FWW-SSF)**, organizing this annual meeting, according to our constitution.

It'll be a very special occasion to discover the Swiss model of forest sustainable management.

And to reinforce the strong link with our Swiss colleagues.

We'll be very happy to welcome all the UEF members delegates in Maienfeld, for a fruitful meeting, with an interesting program.

HNR.



UEF news

XXII UEF Governing Council Meeting in Maienfeld Switzerland 13-16 June 2019

FVW | | SSF

Fachverein Wald SIA
Société spécialisée de la forêt SIA
Associazione specializzata della foresta SIA
Associazione specializzata da quaud SIA

The **Fachverein Wald SIA (FVW-SSF)** as member of UEF, has the pleasure to organize the **XXII UEF Governing Council Meeting**, which will be held in **Maienfeld, Switzerland**, from **13rd to 16th of June 2019**.

The place of the seminar is at "ibW Höhere Fachschule Südostschweiz, Bildungszentrum Wald Maienfeld", one of the Swiss Schools for Foresters (www.ibw.ch/angebote/wald-holz/wald/).

There is there suitable accommodation and the school is placed beautifully at the foot of the Alps, between vineyards and oak groves, on the edge of the small historical town Maienfeld.

The program will start on 13th of June with a visit of the forest school.

A seminar on **“Innovation in the Forest in times of Climate Change”** will take place on **14th of June**.

It will be welcomed by Josef Hess

The challenge of climate change in the countries of Europe will be the topic. Short presentations by UEF delegates and participants from Switzerland will allow an overview of the problems.

Then, an innovation workshop will follow, led by Jean-Philippe Hagmann and Cla Tschennett.

After the lunch in the Oak Grove, the innovation workshop will go on again.

At the end of the day, the international seminar will try to give answer to the question: how much innovation will be required to address the problem of climate change in the forest?

Harald Bugmann Graubünden's climate strategy with particular regard to natural hazards, with Reto Hefti.



The UEF XXII Governing Council Meeting will take place on Saturday morning, the 15th of June. **A field tour** will be organized on the afternoon about Mountain Forestry, Natural Hazards and Climate Change.

The farewell dinner will be at the winery of Pola in Maienfeld.

You'll find a detailed feedback in your next Presidency letter in November and on our web site just after the meeting, with all the material. **HNR.**

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UEF activities

“Our forest, our future”

Sustainable forest management to address societal challenges

EU commission Conference in Brussels April 2019

On 25–26 April 2019 the Conference “**Our Forests, Our Future**” took place at the Charlemagne building in Brussels. Organized by DG Agri, the event provided a good opportunity for a broad exchange of views on major challenges and opportunities facing forests and the forest sector. The Conference dedicated particular attention to EU priorities through thematic sessions.



The first day started with the Opening session:

“Setting the scene: **The contribution of forests and the forest sector to EU priorities and targets, taking stock of the review of the EU Forest Strategy**”

followed by the First session “**Contribution of the forest sector to innovation, growth and jobs**. Opportunities and challenges for the bio economy”. In the Panel discussion the increase in demand for wood-based renewable energy, the search for bio-based materials in industry and the chemical sector and the drive towards zero carbon buildings was discussed.

The Second session dealt with “**Forests and the Paris Agreement**: Opportunities and challenges for the forest sector.” During the Panel discussion it became clear, that the Paris Agreement is reducing Forests to a GHG storage with emissions and removals. The important role of Forests and Forestry by the long-term storage of CHG through wood products is not taken into account.

The first Conference day ended with the Third session: **Forests and the health of the Earth**: Healthy forest ecosystems provide habitats for animals and plants, play a major role in adapting to climate change, in biodiversity conservation and in preventing and combating desertification, providing also water and soil protection and protection from natural hazards, and delivering other environmental services. They also provide other multiple benefits to society, including benefits for human health, recreation and tourism and a Panel discussion: what mechanisms for safeguarding and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services through forests? How to foster markets for ecosystem services?



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The Fourth Session was held on 26 April: „**Protecting forests and promoting sustainable forest management at global level**: through different initiatives (REDD+, FLEGT, Timber Regulation) the EU and the Member States are contributing to combat deforestation and forest degradation at global level and the Commission is currently preparing further action in this area.

Then followed a Panel discussion: how to develop and implement effective actions and measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation?

The first Conference day ended with the Third session: “**Forests and the health of the Earth**”: Healthy forest ecosystems provide habitats for animals and plants, play a major role in adapting to climate change, in biodiversity conservation and in preventing and combating desertification, providing also water and soil protection and protection from natural hazards, and delivering other environmental services. They also provide other multiple benefits to society, including benefits for human health, recreation and tourism “.

In the following Panel discussion it was discussed how the delivery of ecosystem services can be ensured and how to foster

the markets for ecosystem services?

UEF attended this very interesting meeting, represented by its **President, Michael Diemer**.

More detailed informations about the Conference can be found under https://ec.europa.eu/events/forestry-conference2019-apr-25_en

A feedback will be given during our next Governing Council Meeting in Switzerland.

MD.

UEF activities

UEF Work camp excursion week 2019

UEF is following the long-lasting tradition and will offer again an **International Workcamp** event for Forest Students in 2019. After organizing the Workcamp last year in Poland, it will be held 2019 in Germany like many years before. Due to the current circumstances, UEF is offering in cooperation with **Landesforsten Rheinland Pfalz** and the **Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald** a **Workcamp Excursion Week** in the forest district of **Kastellaun**.

From **27 October to 03 November**, forest students from many different countries are invited to get more familiar with the forest conditions in Rhineland-Palatinate and Germany by visiting different kind of forests. It will be a good opportunity to exchange information and experiences with other people with the same interests from all over Europe. The accommodation is free and will be in the „**Waldjugendheim Kolbenstein**“, a former forest house in the middle of the forests, which is used as a self-catering forest youth hotel.



You'll find soon on our web site, in the **Forestry education section**, all the necessary information to register yourself. After the workcamp, news will be published as well on our web site.

UEF is happy to invite again all young forest students.

MD.

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UEF activities

Forest communicators network

Annual meeting 20-22 May 2019 Oslo, Norway

The **UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators' Network (FCN)** is mandated by the **UNECE Committee on Forests** and the **Forest Industry (COFFI)** and the **FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)**.

The overall objective is to improve the ability of the forest sector to communicate effectively, within and outside the sector on the role of forests in sustainable development and to advise the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and to support communication activities in all Work Areas, through (among others):

- 1 Supporting forest-related ECE/FAO intergovernmental bodies in reaching out to relevant constituencies, within and outside the forest sector;
- 2 Providing a forum for international interaction and cooperation in forest related communications;
- 3 Developing the professionalism of forest communicators by introducing and encouraging state of the art and innovative communication approaches, strengthening networking and supporting capacities in the region.



The next meeting will be in **Oslo in Norway, 20-22 May 2019**.

UEF will be present actively, as usual with its Secretary, **Thomas Baschny**.

More information will be on our web site after the meeting.

HNR.

UEF activities

14th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2019 in Latvia 1-4 July 2019



"JSC **"Latvia's State Forests"** in cooperation with National Centre for Education of Republic of Latvia and Riga Technical university will organize the **14th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2019** in **Latvia – Riga and Tervete** from **1th – 4th of July, 2019**.

The congress theme is **"Designing bridges between forest and schools"**.

How to link the forest pedagogy programmes and regular schools? How can forest educators and teachers cooperate on pupils' learning?

The congress is a forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of forest pedagogy. The continuity of the congress is guaranteed by **Forest Communicators Network – Subgroup Forest Pedagogics**, part of both the UNECE Timber Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

This year congress will start and end in **Riga** – capital city of Latvia - to reach wider audience from the schools and media, but the first evening of the congress will be celebrated on coast of the Baltic sea in Latvia's state forests.

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Following the theme teachers from Latvia will join the programme activities on July 2nd in Riga Technical University where workshops focusing on designing new practices will take place.

On July 3rd there will be a day trip to LVM nature park, the most visited forest of Latvia – where congress participants will be involved in Market of Activities and other pursuits.

UEF, as an active member of the group will be there, represented by its Secretary, **Thomas Baschny** and its treasurer, **Anna Petrakieva**.

You'll have some feedback after this congress on our web site. **HNR.**



UEF activities

A new training on forest pedagogy in Bulgaria

This year again, the **Union of Bulgarian Foresters (UBF)** in collaboration with UEF will organize a **forest pedagogy workshop** in Bulgaria. The second level B workshop will take place from **7-10 of May** at Yundola, Bulgaria. 35 participants will be able to upgrade their knowledge about the work with children and especially the work with people with special needs.

The keynote speakers and trainers will be **Georg Sprung** – expert on Forest information and environmental education at Landes Forsten Rheinland-Pfalz, and **Thomas Baschny**, **UEF secretary and** representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism who are also leading experts in the field of Forest pedagogy.

The seminar is organized by **Anna Petrakieva**, **UEF treasurer** and representative of the Executive forest agency in Bulgaria and is supported by UBF.

The activities in the field of the Forest Pedagogy in Bulgaria continue for a fifth consecutive year. Together with the capacity building of the foresters in the field of work with youngsters, a number of educational events are held with children of different age groups throughout the country.



After the success of this new for Bulgaria forest activity, UBF plan to organize the **first national Conference of Forest pedagogues from 17 to 19 October 2019**. During the conference all Bulgarian practitioners in the field of Forest pedagogy are invited to share their experience and new ideas.

The event is planned to take place during the festivities organized for the celebration of the **110 years anniversary of the Union of Bulgarian Foresters and the Presidency of the UEF** will be invited to join **UEF celebrations** in Bulgaria. **AP.**