

Forest Europe



The MCPFE Newsletter of the Liaison Unit Warsaw

FOCUSING ON DRAFT DOCUMENTS FOR THE WARSAW CONFERENCE

More than 60 participants gathered at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting (5-6 June, 2007, Warsaw, Poland) to discuss and further specify the draft documents for the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). The Conference will be convened on 5-7 November, 2007 in Warsaw, Poland under the title "Forests for quality for life".

The meeting was opened by Ms. Agnieszka Bolesta, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Environment who emphasized the exceeding importance of forests to quality of human life and their role in safeguarding the future of our planet as reflected in the title of the 5th MCPFE.

The deliberation focused on the content of ministerial commitments to be comprised in the draft texts of the Ministerial Declaration and the two Warsaw Resolutions. The view shared by participants re-confirmed the recognition of need for immediate action towards securing the conditions of life on our planet, in which forests have vital role to play. It was recommended that the Warsaw Declaration should provide a strong political message on significance of European forests for the improvement of quality of life and in particular its contributions to climate change mitigation, energy supply and water protection. Furthermore, the proposal of commitments promote the importance of the sustainable forest management as indispensable part of sustainable development and as prerequisite to the achievements of internationally agreed goals.

Two more documents, which are being elaborated for the consideration of the ministers were discussed in their substance. In regard to the draft of the Warsaw Resolution 1: "Forests, Wood and Energy" participants agreed to structure the major commitments under two titles: enhancing the role of the forest sector in energy production and mobilization of wood resources. The maintenance of the long term economic viability and competitiveness of European forestry and forest-based industry was strongly recommended. The discussion on the draft of the Warsaw Resolution 2: "Forests and Water" resulted in four commitment parts that tackle the issues of close interrelation between forests and water, co-ordination of forest and water resources management policies, mitigation of climate change and economic valuation of forest services.

As the next step in the run-up to the 5th Ministerial Conference there will be the Expert Level Meeting on 3-4 September, 2007, which is expected to clarify the status of the draft documents. More information available at: <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/meetings/2007/elm1>

MEETINGS

MCPFE MEETINGS

3-4 September 2007, Warsaw, Poland
MCPFE Expert Level Meeting

5-7 November 2007, Warsaw, Poland
5th Ministerial Conference on the
Protection of Forests in Europe

OTHER MEETINGS

6-7 September 2007, Warsaw, Poland
Forest and Forestry in the context
of rural development: IUFRO European
Congress organized in conjunction with
2007 EFI Annual Conference

10-12 October 2007, Belgrade, Serbia
6th Ministerial Conference "Environment
for Europe"

MCPFE IS GROWING!

Recently established European State Forest Association EUSTAFOR has joined the MCPFE as an observer organisation.

With its 26 members EUSTAFOR supports and strengthens state forest organisations in Europe to maintain and enhance an economical viable, social beneficial, cultural valuable and ecological responsible sustainable forest management.

The LUW welcome this participation and look forward for valuable contribution and practical approach in shaping the policy.

Currently the MCPFE consists of 46 European countries and the European Community, 31 observer organisation and 13 countries outside of Europe.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

Energy - water - climate - can forests live up to European societies' expectations?

The question arised as a title of the press conference held on 5 June, 2007 in the Polish Press Agency (Warsaw, Poland), organized in parallel to the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting. During the event the representatives of the GCC countries discussed the expectations, which European societies place on forests in the perspective of the up-coming Ministerial Conference.



Nearly 50 journalists who gathered at the press conference were informed about the MCPFE activities and progress towards 5th Ministerial Conference. The vision of the future of European forests was presented in the context of the current and emerging issues such as climate change, energy and water supply and with expectation on how to meet the problems of tomorrow.

The press conference was the first of three to be organized so as to attract the broader public. The next one will be held on 4th of September on the occasion of the up-coming ELM. The main press conference with the participation of the ministers of the GCC will be held on 5th November 2007.



Prof. Kazimierz Rykowski (Poland) revealed the Conference title „Forests for quality of life” as reflecting the relation between man and nature and showing values, which forests bring into life of modern society.



Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria) explained the MCPFE working modalities and assessed its influence on national forest legislation. The broad involvement of stakeholders was highlighted.



Mr. Arne Ivar Sletnes (Norway) underlined the importance of wood biomass as energy carrier, which might determine the future political discussions about forests and the limits triggered by climatic changes.



Dr. José María Solano López (Spain) stressed the importance of the Warsaw Resolution 2, which acknowledge the relation between forests and water as well as a need for cooperation on this issue.

“FOREST FOR QUALITY OF LIFE” IN BRUSSELS



The announcement of the 5th Ministerial Conference was spread out at the European Commission's Green Week 2007. The event took place from 12 - 15 June, 2007 in Brussels and gathered thousands of participants who according to this year theme “Past Lessons, Future Challenges” reviewed actions in environmental policy to date so as to best manage challenges of the future.

The MCPFE information stand was one of only three dedicated to forestry among other sixty five exhibitions. Additionally, an article entitled “Forests for quality of life” was presented in a special edition of “The Parliament - European Politics and Policy Magazine” (Issue 247-June, 2007) that was distributed among Green Week participants as well as among members of European parliament. To download the PDF file please visit:

<http://www.theparliament.com/EN/Magazine/>