

Executive Secretary
Under-Secretary-General

Ref.: 2017/OES/394/FLH

13 December 2017

The State of Europe's Forests 2020 Report

Excellency, *vdziena pani ministerke*

I have the honour to thank you for your letter dated 24 November 2017 regarding the State of Europe's Forests Report 2020. I value your willingness to continue the ongoing cooperation with the United Nations and I thank you for bringing the matter and our correspondence to the attention of the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting on 28-29 November 2017 in Bratislava. In this way, Forest Europe signatories were fully informed and were given the opportunity to express their views openly.

I understand the FOREST EUROPE signatories present at the Expert Level Meeting did not give guidance on the copyright issue raised in our correspondence and therefore no recommendations were made in this regard. As there was no feedback on the copyright issue and no objection to our cooperation on the preparation of this report, I believe we can now entrust the Liaison Unit Bratislava and the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to work jointly on the issues raised in our correspondence. The Joint Section will liaise again with the UN Publications Board to relay your points on the role of FOREST EUROPE in the preparation of the report and inform the Liaison Unit of the outcome of these consultations. It is our aim to find a solution that will fully reflect the role of FOREST EUROPE and the Liaison Unit while respecting the latest UN rules on publications as agreed by UN Member States.

Regarding your request for clarification on burden sharing, I reiterate the offer of UNECE to assume the costs of printing of the report and the translation of the report into Russian and French. This is in addition to the technical support that we offer for the preparation of the report. It would be very helpful if the Liaison Unit could amend the draft agreement for the preparation of the State of Europe's Forests 2020 taking into account the proposals made by the Joint Section, as these were not reflected in the relevant

Her Excellency
Ms. Gabriela Matečná
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
Bratislava

documentation distributed at the Expert Level Meeting. Further, we would be grateful if the full input and work of the Joint Section and the relevant UNECE Team of Specialists involved in this work also could be properly reflected in the agreement. The Joint Section will resend its specific proposals to the Liaison Unit Bratislava so these can be integrated in the draft agreement.

I trust the above will help us move forward on the issues related to financial and in kind technical support provided by the United Nations and work together in an efficient and cost-effective manner for the production of the report.

I look forward to our fruitful cooperation on this important report and our other joint activities.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Príchová

Olga
Olga Algayerova

cc: Ms. Ludmila Marušáková, Head of the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Bratislava
FOREST EUROPE Signatories