

# FOREST EUROPE

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

## Vision, mission and important milestones of the process

1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on future direction of  
FOREST EUROPE

Liaison Unit Bratislava



# FOREST EUROPE – who we are?

- Voluntary high-level political process founded in 1990 to work towards the sustainable management of forests throughout Europe
- Develops common strategies and policy instruments for its 47 signatories how to sustainably manage forests
- Takes decisions on common aspects of highest political relevance regarding forests, forestry and forest related issues in order to maximise the contribution of European forests to the ecological, social and economic well-being of the region



# FOREST EUROPE – what is our mission?

- FOREST EUROPE's broader vision is to contribute to the sustainable development of society at large, based on the three pillars of Sustainable Forest Management as it continues with the realisation of the shared vision for forests in Europe and the related Goals and 2020 Targets for European Forests, adopted at the Ministerial Conference in Oslo
- **Mission:** FOREST EUROPE enhances the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, secures and promotes SFM with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society



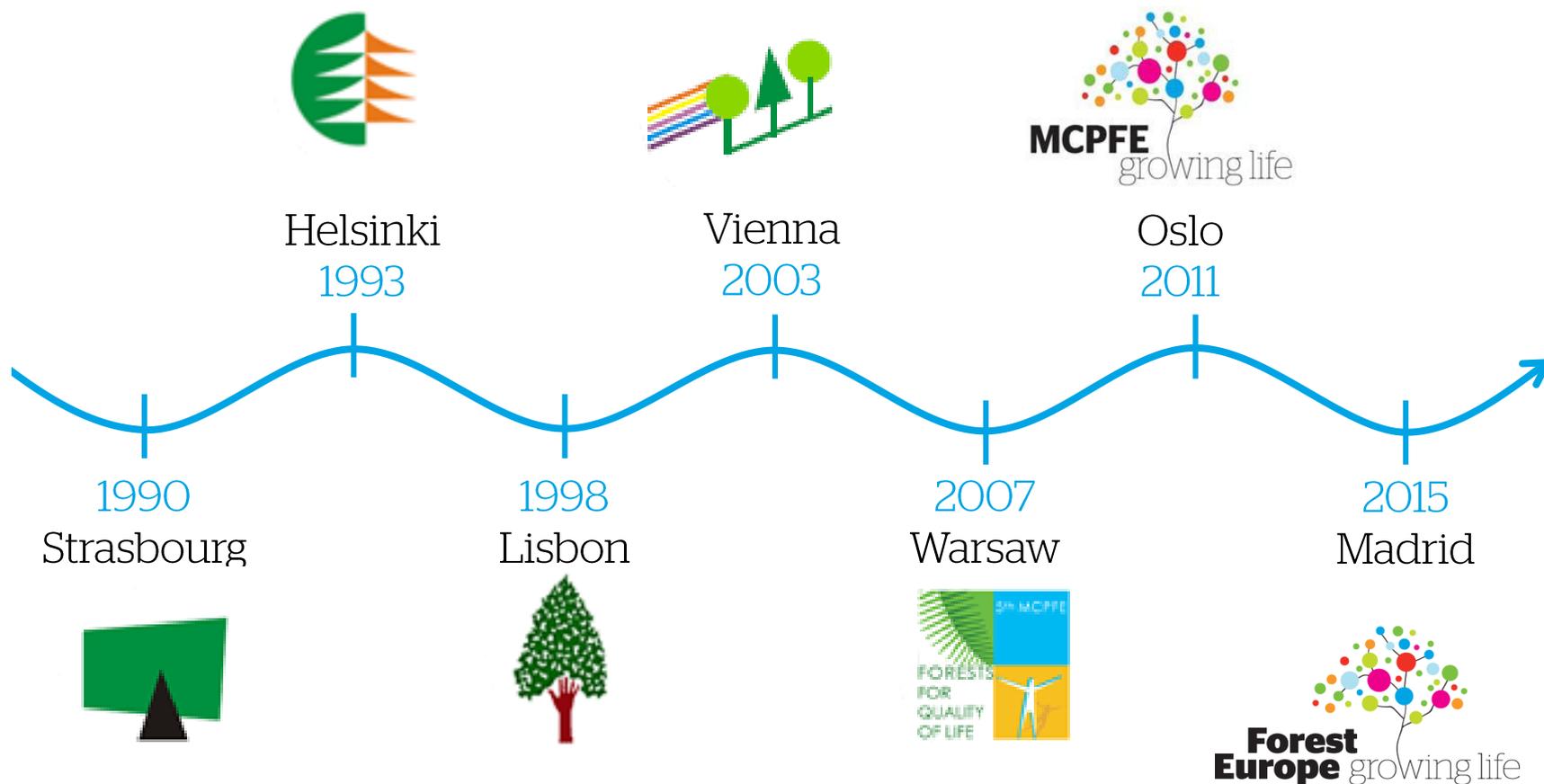
# FOREST EUROPE undertakes activities and actions that include:



- a. Develop and update policies and tools for sustainable forest management, including by facilitating open and flexible policy dialogue, active participation by relevant stakeholders and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination with other actors;
- b. Monitor, assess and facilitate implementation of commitments on forests and sustainable forest management in all European countries and in the region as a whole;
- c. Promote education, research and the use of scientific knowledge and facilitate sharing of experience across countries, sectors and stakeholders on all aspects of sustainable forest management and other forest related issues;
- d. Raise awareness and understanding of contributions by FOREST EUROPE to sustainable forest management in relevant fora including at international level and among the public, through implementation of the communications strategy;

FOREST EUROPE was founded in 1990.

Since then, 7 Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe have taken place



# Strasbourg 1990

- The first Ministerial Conference took place in Strasbourg in December 1990
- Adoption of a general declaration - participants agreed to promote and **reinforce cooperation within Europe** in the field of forest protection and SFM,
- Six resolutions on monitoring forest ecosystems, conservation of forest genetic resources, creating a decentralized European Data Bank on forest fires, adapting mountain forest management to new environmental conditions, expanding a research network on tree physiology, and creating a European research network on forest ecosystems.

# Helsinki 1993

- The second Ministerial Conference was held in Helsinki in June 1993.
- Adoption of a general declaration –**setting FE process, its principles and structure**
- four resolutions on: **general guidelines for sustainable forest management (SFM)** in Europe including collaboration on data collection; general guidelines for conserving the biodiversity of European forests; forestry cooperation with countries with economies in transition; and strategies for a process of longterm adaptation of forests to climate change.

# Lisbon 1998

- The third Ministerial Conference was held in Lisbon in June 1998.
- Participants adopted a general declaration and affirmed the outcomes of the Helsinki follow-up process.
- The Conference focused on the socioeconomic aspects of SFM and **pan-European criteria, indicators and operational level guidelines for SFM.**

# Vienna 2003

- The fourth Ministerial Conference took place in Vienna, in April 2003.
- Conference participants adopted the Vienna Living Forest Summit Declaration
- Five resolutions on: strengthening synergies for SFM in Europe through cooperation and **National Forest Programmes**; enhancing the economic viability of SFM; preserving and enhancing the social and cultural dimensions of SFM; conserving and enhancing forest biodiversity; and addressing climate change and SFM in Europe.

# Warsaw 2007

- The fifth Ministerial Conference was held in Warsaw in November 2007: Resolutions: „Forests, Wood and Energy“ and „Forest and Water“
- A review of the MCPFE process by assessing progress made and obstacles faced in the implementation of its commitments
- Two ministerial statements: European Forest Week; solidarity with the people who have suffered forest fires
- Beginning a process for exploring the possibility of an LBA on forests in Europe

# Oslo 2011

- The sixth Ministerial Conference was held in Oslo in June 2011.
- Oslo Ministerial Decision: **European Forests 2020**, which outlines a vision, goals, targets and actions for Europe's forests to guide forest policy through 2020.
- Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating an LBA on Forests in Europe (the **Oslo Mandate**), under which the FOREST EUROPE signatories decided to take further international action on forests through the elaboration of an LBA, and established the INC to develop this agreement.

# Madrid 2015

- The 7th Ministerial Conference was held in Madrid in October 2015 followed by the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference
- The Ministerial Conference adopted: a Declaration, ‘25 Years Together Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe,’ a **decision on the future direction of FOREST EUROPE** and two resolutions, one on ‘Forest Sector in the Center of a Green Economy,’ the other on ‘Protection of Forests in a Changing Environment.’
- The EMC adopted a decision agreeing to explore possible ways to find common ground on the draft legally binding agreement (LBA) at an appropriate time no later than 2020.



**SFM** Sustainable Forest Management



**Forest Europe** growing life

# Signatories:

46 signatory countries + EU



# Observer countries

- AUSTRALIA
- BRAZIL
- CAMEROON
- CANADA
- CHILE
- CHINA
- GHANA
- INDIA
- JAPAN
- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- MALAYSIA
- MOROCCO
- NEW ZEALAND
- USA

# Observer organisations



Alpine Convention

AIFM

Bioversity International

BWI

Carpathian Convention

CEI-Bois

CEPF

CEPI

CEETAR

CIC

COPA-COGECA

Council of Europe

Council of European Foresters

EFI

ELO

EOMF

EFBWW

European Investment Bank

EUSTAFOR

FAO

FECOF

FERN

FSC

Friends of the Earth Europe

Greenpeace International

IFSA

IIASA

ILO

ITTO

IUCN

IUFRO

MMFN

Montreal Process

PEFC

Pro Natura-Friends of the  
Earth Switzerland

REC

UEF

UNDP

UNECE

UNEP

UNFF

UNU

USSE

World Bank

WWF

# FOREST EUROPE

## Work Programme (2016-2020)

- WP carried out in cooperation with signatories, observers and other relevant organizations and processes
- Cooperation and synergies with regional actors in Europe (UNECE, FAO, UNEP, EFI) and, where relevant, in a broader geographical context (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, IUFRO)
- Specific reference to synergies with the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work
- Emphasis on alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNFF 11 Resolution, and the Paris Agreement
- Cross-sectoral cooperation



# FOREST EUROPE

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