



Second meeting of the Working Group on the future direction of FOREST EUROPE

13-14 June 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia

Draft Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Introductory information on the progress made in the Review of the FOREST EUROPE process
4. Presentation of results and findings from the questionnaire survey on future direction of FOREST EUROPE
5. Preparation of recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE
6. Discussion on the next steps to finalize the report for the ELM
7. Any other business
8. Conclusions and closure of the meeting

Documentation: *WG2_Review/2017/1/Report on Future Direction of FOREST EUROPE – Part I.: Results of the questionnaire survey*

Meeting hours: Tuesday, 13 June 2017, 09.00 – 12.00 and 13.00 – 19.00
Wednesday, 14 June 2017, 09.00 – 13.00
Venue: Austria Trend Hotel Bratislava, Vysoká 2A, Bratislava, Slovakia
Field trip: Monday, 12 June 2017, 17.00 – 20.00
Reception: Tuesday, 13 June 2017, at 20.00, Austria Trend Hotel Bratislava

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The working group shall, at the beginning of the meeting, adopt the agenda and organisation of work for that meeting on the basis of the draft agenda.

3. Introductory information on the progress made in the Review of the FOREST EUROPE process

The mandate to conduct the review of the process was provided by the Seventh Ministerial Conference in Madrid, in October 2015. The Madrid Ministerial Decision “The future direction of FOREST EUROPE” affirmed the need for the process to be re-examined to respond to current and new challenges and opportunities in order to maintain and enhance its contribution to sustainable forest management in Europe. At the ELM held in Bratislava, 11-12 May 2016, the Working Group on the future direction of FOREST EUROPE has been established by adoption of its Terms of Reference and Roadmap to re-examine the FOREST EUROPE process in order to make it more effective and inclusive. The Working Group at its first meeting, on 12-13 October 2016, decided to conduct an online survey with the aim to take stock of signatories’ and observers’ views on (i) structures, procedures and work modalities of FOREST EUROPE; (ii) achievements and added value of the process; and (iii) its interplay with other actors in the Pan-European forest policy arena.

In accordance with the resolution of the Working Group at its first meeting, the views and opinions of signatories and observers were collected through a web-based questionnaire. The preparation of the draft questionnaire was guided by the Working Group co-chairs (appointed representatives of Ukraine and France) and elaborated by two external experts in close collaboration with the Liaison Unit Bratislava. Before its distribution, the draft questionnaire was commented by the Working Group members and their comments were taken into consideration accordingly.

Respondents were approached by e-mail with web-based link to the online survey, requesting them to complete it during a period of four weeks in January–February 2017. A total of 40 respondents filled the survey on future direction of FOREST EUROPE. Results of the survey will serve as a basis for elaboration of the final report including a set of recommendations for the future of FOREST EUROPE.

The Working Group members may wish to be informed on ongoing and future activities and its time schedule and to give views on the next steps towards the review of the FOREST EUROPE process.

4. Presentation of results and findings from the questionnaire survey on future direction of FOREST EUROPE

The questionnaire survey on future direction of FOREST EUROPE included a total of 20 questions that were structured into three parts:

A/ FOREST EUROPE achievements and added value,

B/ FOREST EUROPE interplay with other actors in the Pan-European forest policy arena,

C/ FOREST EUROPE structures, procedures and work modalities.

The target group of the questionnaire survey comprised: focal points of all FOREST EUROPE signatories (46 European countries and the European Union); and focal points of all non-European observer countries and international organizations with observer status to FOREST EUROPE (14 countries and 44 organizations).

The collected data were processed automatically via the SurveyMonkey application, and analysed by the Liaison Unit Bratislava, in consultation with the co-chairs, and subsequently peer-reviewed by two experts.

The Working Group may wish to be informed on the results of the survey including on the executive summary of key findings. A report containing survey results (Part I) will serve as a base for elaboration of a set of recommendations for the future of FOREST EUROPE.

Documentation: *WG2_Review/2017/1/Report on Future Direction of FOREST EUROPE – Part I.: Results of the questionnaire survey*

5. Preparation of recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE

Based on the results of the questionnaire survey (Part I of the report), the working Group is invited to deliberate, exchange views, formulate and agree on possible set of recommendations for the future direction of FOREST EUROPE process to be embraced into the second part of the final report.

The discussions facilitated by co-chairs will be targeted at formulation of the possible recommendations structured into following thematic blocks:

- I. Enhancing relevance of FOREST EUROPE
- II. Strengthening cooperation at all levels
- III. Increasing visibility, enhancement of communication and outreach
- IV. Maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of the structure, procedure and work modalities
 - a) Ministerial Conferences
 - b) Expert Level Meetings
 - c) Other FOREST EUROPE meetings
 - d) Liaison Unit
 - e) General Coordinating Committee
 - f) FOREST EUROPE funding
 - g) Formalization of FOREST EUROPE

6. Discussion on the next steps to finalize the report for the ELM

The final report of the Working Group containing the survey results (Part I) and set of recommendations for future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Part II) will be submitted to Expert Level Meeting (to be held 28-29 November 2017) for its consideration and adoption. The Working Group may wish to discuss the finalization of the report and agree upon future steps and possible scenarios before its submission to the ELM.

7. Any other business

The Working Group may wish to exchange information and views on the other matters.

8. Closure of the meeting

INDICATIVE TIME SCHEDULE

12 June 2017	
17.00–20.00	Field trip & Social evening
13 June 2017	
09.00–09.10	Opening of the meeting (Agenda Item 1)
09.10–09.15	Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 2)
09.15–09.30	Introductory information on the progress made in the Review of the FOREST EUROPE process (Agenda Item 3)
09.30–10.30	Presentation of results and findings from the questionnaire survey on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 4)
10.30–11.00	Coffee break
11.00–12.00	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5) <i>I. Enhancement of political relevance of FOREST EUROPE</i>
12.00–13.00	Lunch break
13.00–14.00	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) <i>II. Strengthening cooperation at all levels</i>
14.00– 15.00	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) <i>III. Increasing visibility and enhancement of communication and outreach using new methods and tools</i>
15.00– 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.15	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) <i>IV. Maximising the effectiveness and efficiency of the structure, procedure and work modalities</i> a) Participation and engagement of Ministers in Ministerial Conferences
16.15– 16.45	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) b) Effectiveness of Expert Level Meetings
16.45– 17.15	c) Effectiveness of other FOREST EUROPE meetings
17.15–17.45	d) Role and arrangement of Liaison Unit
17.45–19.00	e) Role and arrangement of General Coordinating Committee
	f) FOREST EUROPE funding
20.00	Reception
14 June 2017	
9.00–09.45	Preparation of draft recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) g) Formalization of FOREST EUROPE
09.45–11.00	Preparation of recommendations on future direction of FOREST EUROPE (Agenda Item 5 cont.) Finalisation of the set of recommendations, discussion of outstanding questions
11.00–11.20	Coffee break
11.20–12.15	Finalisation of the set of recommendations (improvement of the wording, trimming the formulation) <i>cont.</i>
12.15–12.40	Discussion on the next steps to finalize the report for the ELM (Agenda Item 6)
12.40–12.50	Any other business (Agenda Item 7)
12.50–13.00	Closure of the meeting (Agenda Item 8)

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