

**Executive Secretary**  
***Under-Secretary-General***

Ref.: 2017/OES/355/FLH

13 November 2017

**The State of Europe's Forests 2020 Report**

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forests Industry met jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission from 9 to 13 October 2017 in Poland and adopted the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work 2018-2021. The programme contains the main elements and activities to guide the work of the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section (Joint Section), which UNECE is proud to host in Geneva.

The Programme reiterates the importance of cooperation with other organizations and processes working on forests in the region and, in this regard, I am pleased to acknowledge the long lasting partnership that UNECE and the Joint Section have established with FOREST EUROPE and its Liaison Units over the last 20 years. I am firmly committed to this partnership, and I trust you join me in this support in your role as Chairperson of FOREST EUROPE and its General Coordinating Committee (GCC).

In this context, I would like to express our willingness to cooperate on the preparation and publishing of the next State of Europe's Forests, a milestone report to be launched at the Ministerial Conference in Bratislava in 2020, under the auspices of your Government. I was informed that the Joint Section and the Liaison Unit Bratislava are already working on the report.

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

It was brought to my attention that there are two issues of concern to member States in regard to the State of Europe's Forests report, which I hope to clarify with you. The first refers to the need to attribute the publication to the organizations and processes involved with the logos prominently displayed. We are absolutely convinced that attribution to all those involved is important and we are glad to share with you the attached proposal, which is in line with UN rules on uses of logos. As you can appreciate, FOREST EUROPE is prominent on both the main and the back cover, and I trust the proposed design will be acceptable to all members of the GCC.

The second issue concerns the copyright of the publication. The UN Secretariat holds the copyright of all its publications according to the relevant UN rules currently in place. I also understand that some countries see the UN copyright of the State of Europe's Forests as a precondition for their national data to be used for the report. We did raise with the Publication Board of the United Nations the request of the GCC to have shared copyright; however, they confirmed that shared copyright with entities outside the UN system is not allowed.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that such rules for UN copyright are the outcome of the UN Member States' request to protect the content of UN publications. Therefore, we trust you will consider this as a guarantee that the publication is fully supported by the UN and in line with UN standards established by the Member States. To underline FOREST EUROPE's central role, the Joint Section and the Liaison Unit could agree on text in a prominent part of the publication indicating that it is prepared for the 8th Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (as highlighted on the attached cover), and an outcome of FOREST EUROPE's work in cooperation with the Joint Section.

I would be grateful if you could kindly bring the letter to the attention of the GCC. I will also make sure that it is shared with UNECE member States for their information.

I thank you in advance for your support to our work and I look forward to our continued cooperation on this publication as well as on other joint activities to advance the forest agenda in our region.

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

Olga Algayerova



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