

FOREST EUROPE EXPERT LEVEL MEETING
23-24 October 2019, Košice, Slovakia

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
- 3. Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe**
 - Draft ministerial resolution on improving the adaptation and mitigation capacities of forests towards climate change
 - Building blocks/elements for the draft ministerial declaration “Forests we want”
 - Proposal of other possible documents/topics for the Ministerial Conference
- 4. Information on implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme**
- 5. Any other business**
- 6. Closure of the meeting**

Meeting hours: Wednesday, 23 October 2019, 09:30-13:00 and 15:00-18:00
Thursday, 24 October 2019, 9:00 – 11:00

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Košice, Hlavná 1, Košice

Guided city tour and dinner reception: Wednesday, 23 October 2019, 18:30

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be opened by a high-level representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

The meeting will be chaired by the representatives of two co-chairing countries of the FOREST EUROPE process: Mr. Boris Greguška (Slovak Republic) and Mr. Thomas Haußmann/Mr. Aljoscha Requardt (Germany).

2. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the established procedure, the co-chair of the Expert Level Meeting shall, at the beginning of the session, introduce the draft agenda and ask for its adoption. Preliminary time schedule is attached as Annex I to this document.

3. Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

As it was announced at the last ELM held in March 2019 in Bratislava, the Eight FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference will take place in Bratislava, the Slovak Republic on 28-29 October 2020.

- **Format of the Ministerial Conference**

The last ELM supported more dynamic and interactive format of the Eight Ministerial Conference following the ELM decision on future direction of FOREST EUROPE taken in November 2017 aimed at increasing participation of ministers at ministerial conferences. Liaison Unit with guidance by the General Coordinating Committee (GCC) has developed proposals for a concept to be briefly presented at the ELM.

ELM is invited to express views and provide comments on proposed format of the Ministerial Conference.

- **Draft ministerial resolution on improving the adaptation and mitigation capacities of forests towards climate change**

The ELM, held in March 2019, agreed that the topic on protection of forest in a changing environment including the adaptation to climate change should be addressed at the next Ministerial Conference. Based on the mandate given by the ELM a draft ministerial resolution was prepared by the GCC.

Before the discussion, conclusions of the workshop “*Pro-active management of forests to combat climate change driven risks*” held in September 2019 and subsequent work of the Expert Group on this topic will be briefly presented to the ELM.

ELM is invited to express views and provide general comments on draft of the ministerial document (drafting the text is not expected).

Document: ELM2/2019/1/ Draft ministerial resolution on improving the adaptation and mitigation capacities of forests

- **Building blocks of the draft ministerial declaration, including future work of FOREST EUROPE after 2020 and social dimensions of SFM**

The last ELM also agreed that the topic of social aspects of SFM and related topics are relevant for the Ministerial Conference and should be addressed in a form of a broader document referring to future work of FOREST EUROPE after 2020. In this context a building blocks document was prepared to be discussed at the ELM.

Before the discussion, conclusions of the workshop “*Forest for Human Health – Challenges and Opportunities*” held in April 2019 and subsequent work of the Expert Group on this topic as well as recent work of FOREST EUROPE in the area of green jobs will be briefly presented to the ELM.

ELM is invited to provide general comments on building blocks to be elaborated in a form of draft ministerial documents after the ELM.

Document: ELM2/2019/2/ Building blocks for future work after 2020 and social dimensions of SFM

- **Proposed roadmap for drafting procedure for the MC resolutions/documents**

- 23-24 October 2019: ELM - general discussion about the draft documents and building blocks
- November – mid December 2019: incorporation of comments provided by the ELM into the draft documents
- Mid December 2019: amended drafts of ministerial documents to be sent to signatories and observers
- End of January 2020: drafting meeting and ELM (back to back) with a decision on further steps/procedure
- End of June 2020: finalisation and adoption of the ministerial documents by ELM to submitted to MC

ELM is invited to decide on further procedural steps (roadmap).

- **Proposal of other possible documents/topics for the Ministerial Conference**

Report on implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments (focussing especially on implementation of Oslo Goals and 2020 Targets and national and pan-European implementation of Madrid ministerial commitments) is being prepared for the Eight Ministerial Conference for adoption. Preliminary structure of the report will be presented to the ELM.

The ELM is invited to take note of the information provided.

4. Information on implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

The ELM will be updated about the progress in implementation of activities of the Work Programme since the last ELM, mainly:

Action 4.2 Forest monitoring and reporting

SoEF 2020 as a reference source of information on the status and trends in sustainable management of European forests, is being prepared on the occasion of the Eight Ministerial Conference in 2020. The ELM will be updated about the progress made in the preparation of the SoEF 2020 report.

Action 4.4 Incorporating the value of forest ecosystem services in a green economy

Expert Group on Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services elaborated a study “*Analysis of different approaches and methodologies on valuation and payments for forest ecosystem services in the pan-European region*”. Moreover, FOREST EUROPE Web-based portal on forest ecosystem services was finalized and launched to serve as a platform for knowledge and information exchange as well as for sharing case examples on valuation methods and payments for FES implemented in FOREST EUROPE signatory countries.

Action 6 Follow up to the Madrid Extraordinary Ministerial Conference

Update on the implementation of the Madrid Extraordinary Ministerial Decision (a possible Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe) will be provided.

ELM is invited to take note of the information provided.

5. Any other business

Delegates are invited to discuss any other issues that were not included under the agenda items.

6. Closure of the meeting

Additional organisational information:

Side event “Presentation of objectives and ambitions for the next five years of the EUFORGEN Programme” will be organized by EUFORGEN during the lunch break on 23 October. The aim of the side event is to introduce the process that leads to the preparation of the next Phase of EUFORGEN and the main activities planned for the next five years. During the side event a lunch will be provided by EUFORGEN for the ELM participants.

Guided city tour will be organized on 23 October (in the evening).

LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

ELM2/2019/1/ Draft ministerial resolution on improving the adaptation and mitigation capacities of forests

ELM2/2019/2/ Building blocks for future work after 2020 and social dimensions of SFM

ANNEX I

INDICATIVE TIME SCHEDULE

23 October 2019	
09.30–09.40	Opening of the meeting (Agenda Item 1)
09.40–09.45	Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 2)
09.45–10.30	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3) - Discussion on format of the Ministerial Conference
10.30–11.30	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Discussion on drafts of ministerial documents – general comments
11.30–12.00	Coffee break
12.00–13.00	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Discussion on drafts of ministerial documents – general comments
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch break – lunch offered by EUFOEGEN, and EUFORGEN side event
15.00–16.30	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Discussion on drafts of ministerial documents – general comments
16.30–17.00	Coffee break
17.00–18.00	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Discussion on drafts of ministerial documents – general comments - Discussion and decision on roadmap
18.30	Guided city tour and dinner reception
24 October 2019	
9.00–10.00	Preparation of the Eight Ministerial Conference (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Other possible documents/ topics for the Ministerial Conference
10.00 – 10.40	Information on implementation of the Work Programme (Agenda Item 4)
10.40–10.50	Any other business (Agenda Item 5)
10.50–11.00	Closure of the meeting (Agenda Item 6)
11:00	Coffee and refreshment