

FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting

19 – 20 November 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

3.1 Information on the format and preliminary agenda of the Eighth Ministerial Conference

3.2 Draft ministerial declaration – exchange of views and agreement on the draft

- Preamble
- Vision for European Forests 2030
- Goals for European Forests and European Targets for Forests – discussion and drafting
- Pan-European and National Actions
- FOREST EUROPE beyond 2020

3.3 Draft ministerial resolution – information on the state-of-play

4. Information on implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

4.1. SoEF 2020 report

4.2. Implementation of FOREST EUROPE Work Programme and Commitments

5. Transfer of Liaison Unit

6. Any other business

7. Closure of the meeting

Meeting hours: Thursday, 19 November 2020, 09:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:30

Friday, 20 November 2020, 09:00-12:30 and 14:00-16:00

Meeting language: English

Link to the event will be provided

1. Opening of the meeting

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

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 Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

3.1 Information on the format and preliminary agenda of the Eighth Ministerial Conference

The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic will inform the ELM about preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference to be held on 14-15 April 2021 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Proposed format and preliminary agenda of the conference will be presented to the ELM.

ELM is invited to take note of and exchange views, if any, on the information provided.

3.2 Draft Ministerial Declaration – exchange of views and agreement on the draft

The last ELM held in February 2020 agreed to prepare a revised version of the draft Ministerial Declaration based on the comments provided, and circulate it among signatories and observers. Comments received after the ELM were considered by GCC. Besides the comments received from the signatories in Spring 2020, the *ad hoc* Working Group met in July to discuss possible updates of the European 2020 Targets for Forests in order to be prolonged until 2030. The draft of the updated targets proposed by the Working Group was included into the draft Ministerial Declaration. The revised draft of the Declaration was subsequently circulated among signatories and observers in September for the second round of written comments. The comments received from signatories in October were duly considered by GCC and incorporated into the draft Declaration, except those for paragraph 25 (containing the Updated Targets). With regard to different views on the formulation of particular Updated Targets, GCC decided not to propose a particular text to this part of the draft Ministerial Declaration, but to provide a placeholder with a table containing original 2020 Targets from Oslo Ministerial Decision and the updated formulations proposed by the Working Group.

ELM is invited to discuss the draft Ministerial Declaration, including possible updated European Targets for Forests, with a view to reach an agreement on it.

Documents:

ELM2/2020/1/Draft ministerial declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”
ELM2/2020/3/Supporting document on European Targets for Forests

3.3 Draft ministerial resolution – information on the state-of-play

The last ELM held in February 2020 considered the work on the draft Ministerial Resolution as completed with understanding that substantial reactions could be sent to Liaison Unit Bratislava in writing. After the ELM, most comments received were accepted, and where needed, consulted bilaterally with a respective signatory. The signatories were informed about the finalized draft of the Ministerial Resolution on 1 October 2020 (the draft circulated among all signatories and observers). No substantial comments were received on the finalised draft resolution. Due to the lack of physical ELM to adopt the draft Ministerial Resolution was sent to signatories for formal adoption (via diplomatic channels as well as by email) in the form of a silence procedure.

Note: The silence procedure is not to substitute consideration and endorsement of the Ministerial Resolution at the level of ministers, which should be done by signature at the Eighth Ministerial Conference.

ELM will be informed about the result of the silent procedure for formal adoption of the Ministerial Resolution, which should replace adoption at ELM.

ELM is invited to take note of the information provided.

Documents:

ELM2/2020/2/Draft ministerial resolution “Adapting pan-European forests to climate change”

4. Information on implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

4.1. SoEF 2020 report

ELM will be informed on the progress in finalization of the report State of Europe's Forest 2020.

ELM is invited to take note of the information provided.

4.2. Implementation of FOREST EUROPE Work Programme and Commitments

ELM will be provided with an overview of implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme and FOREST EUROPE commitments during the period 2016-2020. Information is summarized in the report “Implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Commitments – National and pan-European Actions 2016-2020” available at <https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Implementation-of-the-FOREST-EUROPE-Commitments.pdf>.

ELM is invited to take note of and exchange views on the information provided.

5. Transfer of Liaison Unit

Delegates will be informed about the transfer of the secretariat between Liaison Unit Bratislava and following Liaison Unit Bonn.

ELM is invited to take note of the information provided.

6. Any other business

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

7. Closure of the meeting

LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

ELM2/2020/1/Draft ministerial declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

ELM2/2020/2/Draft ministerial resolution “Adapting pan-European forests to climate change”

ELM2/2020/3/Supporting document on European Targets on Forests

ANNEX I - INDICATIVE TIME SCHEDULE

19 November 2020	
09.30 – 09.35	Opening of the meeting (Agenda Item 1)
09.35 – 09.45	Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 2)
09.45 – 10.00	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3) - Information on the format and preliminary agenda on the Eight Ministerial Conference
10.00 - 11.30	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft ministerial declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preamble ▪ Vision for European Forests
11.30 – 12:30	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft ministerial declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goals for European Forests and European Targets for Forests
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 17.30	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft ministerial declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goals for European Forests and European Targets for Forests
20 November 2020	
09.00 – 11.00	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft Ministerial Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goals for European Forests and European Targets for Forests
11.00 – 12.30	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft Ministerial Declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pan-European and National Actions ▪ FOREST EUROPE beyond 2020
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 14.30	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft Ministerial Declaration – decision on finalisation of the declaration
14.30 – 15.00	Preparation of the Eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (Agenda Item 3 cont.) - Draft Ministerial Resolution – information on the state-of-play
15.00 – 15.30	Information on Implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme (Agenda Item 4)
15.30 – 15.40	Transfer of Liaison Unit (Agenda Item 5)
15.40– 15.55	Any other business (Agenda Item 6)
15.55 – 16.00	Closure of the meeting (Agenda Item 7)