Past developments towards a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe
Warsaw 2007

• Proposal from signatories to analyse the potential of a European Convention on Forests

• ELM (2008) after Warsaw established a working group:
  – on exploring the potential added value of and possible options for a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan-European region

• ELM (2009) established another working group:
  – on preparing options for a decision on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe
Oslo 2011

• The ministerial conference in Oslo decided:
  – To start negotiations on a legally binding agreement for forests in Europe
  – To establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)
  – On rules of procedure of the INC
The intergovernmental negotiation Committee (INC)

- INC was established as an independent body
- Mandate - to develop a holistic legally binding framework agreement
- Chair – Jan Heino (Finland)
- Bureau - Austria, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. Spain as permanent observer
- Secretariat – FAO, FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit, European Forest Institute
The INC Sessions

• INC 1 February 2012, Vienna, Austria
• INC 2 September 2012, Bonn, Germany
• INC 3 January 2013, Antalya, Turkey
• Resumed INC 3, April 2013, St Petersburg, Russian Federation
• INC 4 June 2013, Warsaw, Poland
• Resumed INC 4, November 2013, Geneva, Switzerland
The draft negotiating text

- Preamble (agreed ad ref)
- Terms and definitions (agreed ad ref)
- Objective (agreed ad ref)
- Principles (agreed ad ref)
- General provisions (agreed ad ref)
- Forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles (agreed ad ref)
- Forest health and vitality (agreed ad ref)
- Productive functions of forests (agreed ad ref)
- Forest biodiversity (agreed ad ref)
- Protective functions of forests (agreed ad ref)
- Socio-economic functions of forests (agreed ad ref)
Pending issues

• Monitoring and reporting
• Conference of the parties
• Right to vote
• Secretariat
• Compliance
• Settlement of disputes
• Final clauses
Madrid 2015

• The report from INC, including the draft negotiating text, was submitted to the extraordinary ministerial conference, with

• Ministers decided to
  – Acknowledge the work of the INC
  – Use the draft negotiating text as a basis
  – Explore possible ways to find common ground on the legally binding agreement by 2020