

28. November 2017

FOREST EUROPE – Expert Level Meeting

Oral statement made by Franz Thoma, Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), on behalf of CEPF, EUSTAFOR, USSE, Copa and Cogeca, ELO, CEPI and FECOF

“We would like to give a statement on behalf of CEPF, EUSTAFOR (European State Forest Association) and USSE, represented here in the room (Union of Foresters of Southern Europe), and as well other European organisations that were not able to attend the meeting, namely: Copa and Cogeca (European Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives), ELO (European Landowners’ Organization), CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries) and FECOF (the European Federation of organizations representing forest municipalities (and other local authorities) in the European countries).

As stated at several earlier occasions, the conviction of Europe’s forest owners and managers and industry remains clear:

Constructively moving forward towards a future LBA would provide a strong political signal and greatly support the European forest sector in enhancing its political integrity and consistency.

Giving up or missing this opportunity is not an option.

Considering the increasing importance of forests, but also the emerging demands from other policy sectors, a holistic policy framework and strong legal reference at pan-European level is needed more than ever.

The Madrid Ministerial Decision recognized the draft negotiating text for a LBA as a good basis for further consideration of a future European forest convention.

And the INC (Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee) succeeded in reaching an agreement on all substantial forest-related issues.

Now we do hope that the signatories remain fully dedicated to further developing and adopting an LBA in the near future.”