FOREST EUROPE

FOREST EUROPE is a high-level pan-European political process for dialogue and cooperation on sustainable forest management in Europe. It develops common strategies for signatories of the process focused on protection and sustainable management of their forests.

The role of FOREST EUROPE is to improve collaboration of the minsters responsible for forests in Europe in the field of forest policies as well as to support sustainable forest management with the aim to maintain the multiple forests functions that are crucial to society.

The FOREST EUROPE process currently involves 46 European countries and the European Union which are signatories of the process. Moreover, 11 non-European countries, as well as a number of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, unions and associations of forest owners and wood processors, and other forestry related subjects have observer status of the process.

Since the establishment of the initiative in 1990, seven Ministerial Conferences have taken place in Strasbourg, Helsinki, Lisbon, Vienna, Warsaw, Oslo and Madrid. Political commitments adopted by these Conferences have positive impact on the development and implementation of relevant policies in the European geopolitical region.
FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

for the period 2016-2020 was adopted by FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting on 11-12 May 2016, in Bratislava. The main objective of the Work Programme is to continue in FOREST EUROPE efforts to promote sustainable forest management (SFM) in signatory countries reflecting latest developments, knowledge, innovations on emerging issues, and to develop common strategies to this end. Key topics of the work programme are:

**Sustainable Forest Management**
We will further develop and interlink policies and tools to keep Europe’s forests healthy for the environment and society across the globe both today and tomorrow.

**Forest Ecosystem Services**
We will continue exploring different approaches to valuation of and payments for FES existing at the pan-European region, in order to identify possible methodologies and replicable experience.

**Adaptation to Climate Change**
The work on adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change, including their resilience to natural hazards and protection against human induced threats should be increased, further with strengthening the role of SFM to this end.

**Monitoring & Reporting of SFM**
We work on the collaborative data collection system that should be explored to continue the improvement of quality and harmonisation in data collection and reporting.

**Forests and Green Economy**
We will search possible ways of the raising awareness and recognising the contributions of the forest sector and its related value chain to local, national and regional economies.

**Human Health & Well-being**
We will seek ways how to strengthen social aspect of sustainability with particular attention to awareness raising about benefits of forests on human health, well being as well as by means of forest related education.

Since January 1, 2016, the Slovak Republic has held a chairmanship of the political process FOREST EUROPE and hosts own support office - Liaison Unit Bratislava.