

## Madrid Ministerial Decision

### The future direction of FOREST EUROPE

*Adopted by the Expert Level Meeting on 2 July 2015 for consideration by the ministers at the 7<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Madrid 20-21 October 2015*

As representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we

1. ACKNOWLEDGE the relevance of the work carried out during these last 25 years since the First Ministerial Conference in 1990 addressing common challenges and opportunities related to forests in Europe.
2. ARE AWARE of new challenges and demands in and beyond the forest sector in Europe.
3. RECOGNISE the significant achievements of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, known as FOREST EUROPE, guided by ministerial declarations, resolutions, decisions and statements, including their related sustainable forest management tools<sup>1</sup>, with relevance at national, sub-regional, regional and global level.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE the role of FOREST EUROPE in facilitating an open and inclusive policy dialogue between governments, governmental organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.
5. REAFFIRM the role of FOREST EUROPE, as a voluntary high-level political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe.
6. RECALL the outcomes of the work and reflections based on the “Review of the MCPFE” (2009) and TAKE NOTE of the “Assessment of the achievements and added value of the FOREST EUROPE process (2015).

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.foresteuropa.org/sfm\\_criteria](http://www.foresteuropa.org/sfm_criteria)

7. WELCOME the progress made in regional forest related work in particular by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the European Forest Institute and emphasize importance of cooperation between FOREST EUROPE and these organisations.
8. UNDERLINE that FOREST EUROPE needs to be re-examined to respond to current and new challenges and opportunities in order to maintain and enhance its contribution to sustainable forest management in Europe and make FOREST EUROPE fit for the future.
9. DECIDE to review the FOREST EUROPE process, specially its structure, procedures and work modalities, reflecting on the lessons learnt, in order to make it more effective and inclusive, with the specificities set out in forthcoming terms of reference and roadmap to be agreed at the first Expert Level Meeting after the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.
10. DECIDE to maintain and enhance good cooperation with forest related organizations in the region on the implementation of the FOREST EUROPE resolutions and decisions, in particular the goals and targets as contained in the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020.