

Rapid response mechanism

Concept note



FOREST EUROPE is a high-level voluntary policy platform where participants can openly exchange their opinions and commitments. Emerging issues, the High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD), communication and public relations activities characterise the rapid response mechanism, which is an overarching task recently introduced in the Work Programme 2021-2024. It is founded on the needs expressed by signatories to react faster to emerging issues and apply a flexible approach considering the latest scientific information.



FOREST EUROPE High-Level Talks

01 The mechanism's activities consist of a constant **screening of emerging topics**, which are relevant to signatories. This is a core element of the rapid response mechanism.

02 If the topic has already been included in the previous Ministerial decisions and resolutions is important for defining the **relevance level**, also the frequency, and the overall context.

03 The selected issues are considered of high **importance for signatories and observers** and further considerations are led by the Liaison Unit Bonn (LUBo) and supported by the General Coordination Committee (GCC).

04 LUBo's Communication Unit then develops prompt reactions and activities about the identified emerging issue. The type of **output** depends on the relevance and content of the topic (i.e. level of coherence with the FE resolutions and declarations, interconnection with the Work Program 2021-24, etc). These outputs may include communication products (e.g. social media posts, webinars) based on sound science and the organisation of a HLPD, where the selected emerging issue is the key topic of the discussion

The HLPD aims at establishing an interdisciplinary and open dialogue to increase knowledge sharing at the pan-European level with the acknowledgement of the FE community and to promote engagement through a transparent and collaborative process. It focuses on the emerging issue of interest, and the basis of the debate is the latest scientific knowledge.

The HLPD is characterised by a science-policy paper edited by renowned scientists. It collects the latest findings on the topic at hand and is shared before the event. These key insights represent the opening scientific statements during the HLPD.

The GCC is involved in identifying the topic to discuss during the HLPD as a common interest for FE signatories and observers, in line with already existing FE Ministerial resolutions and declarations.

The HLPD is likely to be organised on a yearly basis, selecting the topic according to the interest of signatories and observers to guarantee a regular, dynamic and unique dialogue among different stakeholder groups.

In 2022, the first HLPD will focus on the topic "Sustainable Forest Management: Unlocking forest biodiversity's potential" and will react to the actual situation in Ukraine and the effects on the forest sector.