



The Statement of the Council of European Foresters for INC 4+ Genève, 7- 8 November 2013

The Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) is an important part of the forestry sector from Europe and also an important part of civil society in the forestry sector in Europe.

C.E.F., an international NGO comprising until now nearly 60,000 foresters from 12 countries from Europe, participated with observer statute at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

At the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), C.E.F. has made proposals for the text of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and submitted to the INC three statements: to INC-Forests 3 from Antalya, to the Resumed INC-Forests 3 from Saint Petersburg and to INC-Forests 4 from Warsaw.

C.E.F. considers that the involvement of European foresters in developing a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe is a necessity to ensure a forestry expertise and a professional forestry background of the Agreement.

Taking the foresters' proposals into consideration in developing the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe could create a strong link between the theoretical basis of this Agreement and the implementation of the Agreement in practice.

After the approval and ratification of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, the Secretariat of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, together with operational bodies of the Agreement, will ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of this Agreement.

C.E.F. considers that in these operational bodies of the Agreement can be included the representatives of civil society in the forestry sector, including organizations of the foresters.

C.E.F. thanks to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the opportunity to participate in the development of the Legally



Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, which will be for the forestry sector in Europe and throughout Europe a huge step for ensuring sustainable forest management of all forests and the ratification of this Agreement will represent a historic event to equally recognize all forest functions: economic function, environmental function and social function.

This Statement is signed by all the participants at the INC 4+, Geneve, 7-8 November 2013.

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