



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS
ADVISORY GROUP OF FOREST EXPERTS FROM EUROPE



RESOLUTION OF THE MEETING
OF C.E.F.'s BOARD AND OF THE ADVISORY GROUP OF FOREST EXPERTS FROM
EUROPE FROM 4 SEPTEMBER 2015, BĂILE FELIX, ROMANIA

Members of the Board of the Council of European Foresters and the members of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe, during the meeting of 04 September 2015 in Băile Felix, decided the following:

- I.** It is approved the CEF and AGFEE activity during 15 January – 4 September 2015;
- II.** It is approved the CEF and AGFEE Action Program:
- Meeting of a C.E.F. delegation with representatives of DG AGRI, 7 October 2015, Brussels.
 - C.E.F. participation to the 4th Conference of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) on "Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Bioeconomy - A Challenge for Europe, Brussels, 8 October 2015.
 - C.E.F. participation to the 7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference that will receive the results of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, Madrid, 20-21 October 2015.
 - C.E.F. participation to the 12th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Ankara, 12 -13 October 2015.
 - C.E.F. participation to the Symposium on Nature and Forestry Towards 2023 to be held between 26-29 November 2015 in Antalya.
 - C.E.F. participation to Paris Climate Change Conference – the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 30 Nov - 11 Dec 2015.
- The CEF members will inform the CEF President and the President of AGFEE about their participation in the CEF and AGFEE Action Program.
- III.** C.E.F. Board will analyze the opportunity and utility for C.E.F. of the relations with other international foresters' organizations.
- IV.** It is approved the CEF arguments for membership in expert panels of the EU:
1. This organization is a European organization open to all European countries; however with the enlargement of the European Union the structure of member states has changed with this forest related interests have changed and this needs respective representation

2. The representation of forest related interests in the standing expert panels and advisory groups do not fully take into consideration the different economical, political and social conditions for foresters, forest management, forest industry and forest research within Europe.
3. The interests of some of the most important wood producing countries, having large forest areas especially from the new member states or associated countries like Turkey or partnership countries from the Balkan or the East, are sufficiently represented within the European Commission.
4. Due to history and geography specific problems of New Member States and partnership countries diverse interests need to be taken more carefully into consideration in the Commission panels. For example while deforestation is in old member states not a problem, deforestation and illegal logging is a serious problem in many of the New Member States. Sustainable forest management needs special research and support programs in the New Member State countries.
5. Not only the specificities of New Member States but also European countries outside of the European Union need to be better represented because sustainability in environment and wood processing can only be reached if this important environmental and wood reservoirs are included in the strategic programs of the European Commission.
6. The future of bioeconomy is dependent on renewable resources. The most important resource is wood. Only the better representation of needs and requirements of important wood producing countries like Romania, Bosnia, Serbia, Ukraine, Turkey and others which are organized in CEF will provide a basis to implement the bioeconomy idea.
7. The development of an innovative wood industry needs to consider more the different frame conditions within Europe.
8. The forest ecosystem services and their relevance is different within the different European countries therefore a broader discussion basis in the decision panels is needed.
9. A broad representation of the European foresters, forests and forest research cannot be covered by the very few organizations right now accepted as panel members because they do not present some very important forest and wood producing countries.
10. A large number of foresters is not organized in the accepted panel member organizations but in CEF. The 58 000 members will stay unheard, if CEF is not member in the expert panels.
11. Inviting the forestry specialists from CEF to be part of the panel member organizations is required in order for them to participate in solving the existing problems in the forestry sector in Europe:
 - the situation of forests in many EU countries is particularly severe, are not taken into consideration and are not respected in a uniform manner the three functions of the forest: economic function, social function and ecological function, thus endangering the existence of forests for present and future generations;
 - finds continued illegal logging, which demonstrates the failure of regulations to combat them;
 - does not apply sustainable forest management for areas of millions ha of forest;
 - European forestry strategy and policy take into consideration only part of the issues in the forestry sector.
12. CEF could bring an exchange of experience and good practice in the forestry sector.
13. CEF could assist the Commission and advice on policy in the forestry sector.
14. CEF could deliver an opinion on specific matters either upon request of DG AGRI and within the time limits set in that request, or on their own initiative.
15. CEF could support the monitor policy developments in the forestry sector.

16. By accepting the CEF among the panel member organizations, it is respected the application of article 11 (2) of the Treaty of the European Union: "the institutions are to maintain an opened, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society".

C.E.F. and AGFEE will send these CEF arguments for membership in expert panels of the EU to DG AGRI and to the other institutions of the European Union. Also, C.E.F. and AGFEE will request a meeting on this issue with Jerzy Plewa, Director General DG AGRI.

The outcomes of this meeting will be sent to C.E.F. and AG.F.EE members, to the public opinion and the other institutions of the European Union.

V. It is approved the CEF Statement for the 4th Conference of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) on "Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Bioeconomy - A Challenge for Europe, Brussels, 8 October 2015.

VI. It is approved the CEF Statement for FOREST EUROPE- the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference that will receive the results of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, Madrid, 20-21 October 2015.

VII. It is approved the CEF Statement for the 12th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Ankara, 12 -13 October 2015.

VIII. In accordance with the CEF Statute, the CEF Board proceeded to the amending and supplementing of the art. 2.9, art. 3.2 , art. 6.4 , art. 8.1 and to the annulment of art . 5.5 of the Statute.

IX. In accordance with the Rules of organization and functioning of AGFEE it was amended the art. 7 of the Rules of organization and functioning of AGFEE

X. Taking into consideration the CEF Statute and the requests of representatives of member organizations of CEF it is decided by vote as of 15 January 2016 the CEF Presidency to be taken over by Marian Stoicescu, president of Consilva Confederation.

XI. Taking into consideration the Rules of organization and functioning of AGFEE, it is decided by vote to ask Barbara Koch to take over the AGFEE Presidency from 15 January 2016 for least one year. Ali Kucukaydin and Peter Dudas will act as Vice presidents.

XII. It is approved the organization under the aegis of CEF of the International Symposium of 4 September 2015 "*The role of the foresters and of the foresters' organizations in developing and applying forest strategies and forest policies in different countries of Europe and at the European institutions' level*". The participants to the symposium will receive a Certificate for participation to the symposium on behalf CEF and AGFEE.

XIII. It is approved the CEF Press Release to be presented by the CEF Board during the Press Conference of 4 September 2015 in Băile Felix.