



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS
ADVISORY GROUP OF FOREST EXPERTS FROM EUROPE



THE STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS
for 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

The Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.), an international NGO established in 2011, comprising until now nearly 60,000 foresters from 12 countries from Europe (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) participated with observer statute at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

In its activity, C.E.F. is supported by the Advisory Group of Forest Engineers from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.), established by C.E.F. in 2012.

At the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), C.E.F. made proposals for the text of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and submitted to the INC four statements: to INC-Forests 3 from Antalya, to INC-Forests 4 from Warsaw, to INC4+ from Geneva and to the Informal Consultations on the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests from Vienna.

During INC meetings, the Council of European Foresters kindly requested that the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe should contain provisions regarding:

- *The role, activity and the expertise of the foresters, of the regional, national or international foresters' organizations in forestry sector must be taken into account when developing forest strategies and forest policies at national and international level to ensure sustainable forest management of all forests;*
- *The European foresters' proposals to the national and international institutions and authorities are to ensure sustainable forest management to all the forests and to consider equally the ecological, social and economic functions of forests;*
- *Forestry sector, through sustainable forest management, can provide jobs for all socio-economic categories who work in this sector, helping to eradicate the poverty of the population in this area.*
- *Education and forestry research should be strengthened through forest strategy at national and international level, given their contribution to the future of forests and the life;*

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

Hoping that the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe will lead to a reconsideration of the importance of forests and forest sector in all European countries, European foresters, members of C.E.F., support the application of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

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