



Nr. 28/12.12.2011

## PRESS RELEASE

On November 28, 2011, a delegation of the Council of European Foresters formed by foresters from Romania and Hungary had a meeting at the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels with a delegation of the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development. The Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development was represented by Mrs. Alina - Daniela Ujupan, senior advisor on forestry for the European Commissioner Dacian Ciolos and Mr. Markus Holzer, Head of Unit on the issues of Bioenergy, Biomass, Forestry and Climate Change in the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The intervention of the Council of European Foresters consisted of the following:

“The year 2011 is the international Year of the Forests. It is given great attention to reconsidering the role and importance of the forests, in Europe 31% of the continental surface being covered with forest. The entire population of Europe values and respects the forest, the work of millions of Europeans taking place in forests or forest related fields.

It is time for the European Commission to give a strong signal of forests consideration, considering their importance in the Europeans' life and work and to promote the idea of creating a Forest Directorate within the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development. Maybe it is time to promote the idea that this Commission to be appointed “Commission for Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development”.

C.E.F. suggests as necessary that Brussels to promote and make better known the role, functions and importance of the forests taking into consideration the fact that in each country of Europe the forests became or are going to become the great chance of confidence in the human society' future.

In forests are interested not only some business groups. The forests have become of public interest and they are the people's hope for life. Adapting the current structure of the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development or of the DG AGRI to the forestry reality from the European Union is a necessity. We are sure that now or later there will be the initiative to create a forest authority at the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development level, but, like other organizations or civil society's representatives from the European Union, we are aware that, the more delayed is the creation of this forest authority, the more sufferance will be for the forest and, we cannot ask ourselves why it is not avoided this.



The existence of an European forest authority within the Commission is required for an European forest policy in order to avoid the situations of forest destruction in some countries from the European Union, especially in the eastern part of the European Union and to avoid the transformation of some countries from the European Union into forestry quasi - colonies of some interested groups from other countries.

The existence of a European forest authority would be necessary in order to elaborate and promote a forestry strategy of the European Union, too. It will be a special situation when the future forestry strategy will be elaborated: which structure from the European Commission will promote this European Union forestry strategy, as long as forestry strategy has three areas of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social (the forestry strategy of the European Union can be promoted by DG AGRI or DG ENVI or DG ECFIN). Similarly we can discuss about the European Union forestry policies development and promotion.”

The European forest related issues presented by the Council of European Foresters' delegation in Brussels was approached by the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development representatives in a constructive way, having the hope that the written answer to the letter for the head of the Commission to be similar, while focusing the attention on the national forestry policy for each EU member country, in order to ensure the maintenance and sustainable management of forests.

The Council of European Foresters has submitted to attention of the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development management the need that this to receive a complete information on forestry in order to elaborate the forestry strategies and policies at the EU level.

In this respect the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development has been informed on the setting up - by the Council of European Foresters, having invited some representatives of the forest universities and faculties and forestry research institutes from more countries from the EU - of the Forest Experts Advisory Group near the European Commission.

Until the establishment of the Forest Experts Advisory Group, the Council of European Foresters shall inform the European commission on the European Union forest related issues.

President of C.E.F.  
Marian Stoicescu

