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## **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe**

### **First session**

Vienna, 27 February 2012 – 2 March 2012

### **Agenda item 5**

#### **Note by the Bureau**

## **Roadmap for the negotiation process**

### **I. Introduction**

1. At the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, held from 14 to 16 June 2011 in Oslo, Signatories adopted the “Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe” (the Oslo Mandate) and decided to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.
2. According to the provisions of the Oslo Mandate, the Committee shall commence its work not later than 31 December 2011 and have completed its tasks not later than 30 June 2013. The Committee will present its results to an extraordinary FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference that will take place within six months of the conclusion of the negotiations for consideration, possible adoption and opening for signature.
3. The Bureau commenced the preparation to the first session of the Committee in September 2011 and carried out preparatory work during subsequent meetings. The Bureau originally scheduled the first session of the Committee to be held in Geneva from 21 to 25 November 2011. The session had to be postponed due to technical reasons.
4. Subsequently, at its meeting on 14 December 2012 the Bureau decided that the first session of the Committee will take place from 27 February to 2 March 2012 at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria.
5. The reports from the Bureau meetings are available on the web site ([www.foresteurope.org](http://www.foresteurope.org)).

### **II. Proposed roadmap and suggested work modalities**

6. The Bureau suggests that the Committee might wish to use its first session to provide guidance for developing a first draft negotiating text, and that the draft negotiating text be advanced further during subsequent sessions of the Committee.
7. As specified in Rule 3.1 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall hold up to four sessions. On this basis, the Bureau proposes the following roadmap and work modalities for the Committee.

## **A. First session of the Committee**

8. The Committee is expected to use its first session (INC1) for providing guidance for developing the first draft negotiating text regarding its basic structure, main components and content.

9. It should base its work on paragraph 23 and 24 of the Oslo Mandate and the Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020 (Document 2), as well as take into account the “Non-Paper on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe” and its introductory note (Document 3).

10. It may also wish to use the results of the comprehensive scoping exercise carried out in 2008 - 2010, including the analysis of the former FOREST EUROPE commitments, impact analysis and other reports prepared by the two FOREST EUROPE working groups.<sup>1</sup>

11. It may further wish to exchange views on how to address participation in the work modalities of the Committee.

12. Based on the outcome of the first session, the Committee may wish to ask the Bureau to prepare the first draft negotiating text, which would be considered at the second session.

13. The Committee may wish to identify areas that need substantive work in terms of further elaborating existing texts or adding new provisions. It may also wish to consider setting up ad hoc groups for intersessional work to develop specific subjects.

## **B. Second and third sessions**

14. At its second session (INC2), the Committee may wish to undertake a first reading of the draft negotiating text. It may also wish to start detailed consideration of the content and advance the text by trying to complete as many sections as possible. INC2 is also expected to review the work plan for the subsequent two sessions and possible intersessional activities.

15. Further consideration of the draft negotiating text is foreseen for the third session (INC3), with the intention, again, of completing as many sections as possible. In addition, the Bureau suggests that INC3 consider paragraph 24.g. regarding the possibility of the agreement being brought under the United Nations umbrella, as well as paragraph 24.f. on efficient organization and streamlined secretariat arrangements for the agreement.

## **C. Fourth session**

16. At its fourth session (INC4), the Committee should conclude its work on the entire text, including all parts that might have been left pending during the preceding sessions.

## **D. Draft work plan**

17. Based on the above, a draft work plan for the Committee is presented in the annex.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.foresteurope.org/eng/What\\_we\\_work\\_for/Legally\\_Binding\\_Agreement/](http://www.foresteurope.org/eng/What_we_work_for/Legally_Binding_Agreement/)

### **III. Dates and venue of future sessions**

18. According to the rules of procedure, the Committee shall hold up to four sessions. The Bureau reviewed the possible dates and locations of the next three sessions. The suggested dates and venues are as follows:

- Second session: July - August 2012, Rome (to be confirmed)
- Third session: late 2012 (to be confirmed)
- Fourth session: May - June 2013 (to be confirmed)

19. It is suggested that the Committee decide on the exact dates and venue of the second session, agree on indicative dates for the remaining sessions and request the Bureau to draw up the final timetable for consideration and adoption at the second session.

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### Annex: Roadmap for the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee work (2011- 2013)

Preliminary date	Activity	Expected results/Milestones
July 2011 - December 2011	Inception Phase Organization of the secretariat, nomination of the Bureau members; Bureau preparatory meetings	
27 February 2012- 2 March 2012	<b>INC1</b> 1. Organizational matters 2. Providing guidance on developing first draft negotiating text 3. Discussion on the work plan of the Committee, intersessional activities and modalities for stakeholder participation	Guidance on developing first draft negotiating text Decision on the work plan (Roadmap) Decision on intersessional activities and on modalities for the participation of stakeholders
March 2012 – April 2012	Intersessional work as requested by the Committee First draft of the negotiating text prepared on the basis of the INC1 guidance	
April 2012	First draft of the negotiating text circulated	
April 2012 – June 2012	Any other work requested by the Committee Preparations to INC2	
July -August 2012 (to be confirmed)	<b>INC2</b> 1. First reading of the draft negotiating text 2. Detailed consideration of the amended draft negotiating text	The draft negotiating text considered and views incorporated into the advanced version Conclusion on the draft negotiating text section, wherever possible Updated work plan (Roadmap)
July 2012 - November 2012	Intersessional work as requested by the Committee Preparations to INC3	
September 2012	Distribution of the advanced draft of the negotiating text	
Late 2012 (to be confirmed)	<b>INC3</b> 1. Further consideration of the draft negotiating text 2. Consideration of possibility of bringing agreement under the UN umbrella (24. g.) 3. Consideration of organization and streamlined secretariat arrangements (24. f.)	Parts of the text/chapters of the negotiating text concluded by the Committee
January – May/June 2013	Intersessional work	
April 2013	Distribution of the advanced draft of the negotiating text	
January – May/June 2013	Any other work requested by the Committee	
May-June 2013 (to be confirmed)	<b>INC4</b> Final reading of the negotiating text	Conclusion on the negotiating text and all organizational arrangements
To be determined	FOREST EUROPE Extraordinary Ministerial Conference	