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

Bureau Meeting

26-27 April 2012, Rome

## **Report**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-Forests) for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe was held on 26-27 April 2012 in Rome.
2. The Chair opened the meeting at 10.05 hrs (GMT+1) on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.
3. Mr. Jan Heino (Chair), Mr. Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria), Ms. Katerina Ventřubova (Czech Republic), Mr. Jacques Andrieu (France), Mr. Arne Ivar Sletnes (Norway), Mr. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz (Poland), Ms. Alexandra Orekhovich (Russian Federation), Mr. Tamer Otrakcier (Turkey), Ms. Lyubov Polyakova (Ukraine), and Mr. Jose Maria Solano (Spain), were present.
4. The Secretariat was represented by Ms. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Mr. Peter Csoka, Ms. Manuela Cuvi, Ms. Annick Van Houtte and Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner (FAO), Mr. Ilpo Tikkanen (European Forest Institute), Ms. Elena Estrada Wilke and Ms. Luisa Cabello (FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid).

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

5. The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

### **3. Preparation of a draft negotiating text based on guidance from INC-Forest 1**

6. The Chair presented an initial draft of the negotiating text on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe as a basis for the discussion.
7. It was noted that the document is an attempt to translate the guidance from the INC-Forest 1 meeting into a concrete suggestion for structure and proposals for text formulations on the substantive, technical part of the future agreement.

8. The Bureau discussed the general structure, scope and contents and proposed further development of the text. The Bureau discussed also in depth the preamble, purpose, objectives, principles and general provisions and proposed concrete text formulations.
9. The Bureau requested the secretariat to produce a revised draft of the negotiating text for consideration at its next meeting
10. The Bureau decided to discuss in detail the section on Rules, bodies and procedures during its next meeting.

#### **4. First round of views on consideration of articles 24 f. and 24 g. of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate**

11. The Bureau discussed briefly how to address paragraph 24 g. on the possibility of the agreement being brought under the United Nations umbrella. It was pointed out that such options would have implications on addressing paragraph 24 f.
12. The Bureau requested further information on procedures, which would be necessary to follow when bringing the agreement under the United Nations umbrella, as well as on possible options within the United Nations, for its further consideration.

#### **5. Secretarial arrangements and financial issues**

13. Mr. Peter Csoka (FAO) reported briefly on progress in implementing the project and the use of the multidonor Trust Fund in support of servicing the negotiations. The periodic progress report will be delivered once UNOV provides the final invoice for INC-Forest 1.
14. Information was provided about the recent contributions from the governments of Finland and France. The generous offers from the governments of Germany and Turkey to host the coming two sessions of INC-Forest were also recognized. The Chair and the Bureau expressed appreciation for these generous supports.
15. The Bureau discussed the necessity to secure more funding for the INC-Forest process, in particular, for providing secretariat services, analyses and documentation, supporting intersessional activities, and participation of representatives of eligible parties.
16. Mr. Piotr Paschalis (Poland) said that the Polish Ministry of Environment will consider the possibility of supporting the process in 2013. Information of the decision will likely be passed this autumn. The Chair expressed sincere thanks for the foreseen contribution.

## **5. Communication issues**

17. The Bureau expressed its appreciation for launching the new web site [www.forestnegotiations.org](http://www.forestnegotiations.org) as a means of communication on the Committee's work.
18. Ms. Luisa Cabello (LUM) presented proposals for additional communication activities, in particular in the context of the upcoming second session of the Committee.
19. Bureau members appreciated the presentation and suggested to continue working on this issue. It was pointed out that the communication materials produced should meet the standards of the organizations servicing the negotiations. The Bureau noted the need to develop estimates for the resources needed for communication.

## **6. Date and venue of the next Bureau meeting**

20. The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting on 22 - 24 May 2012 in Rome.

## **8. Closure of the meeting**

21. The Chair closed the meeting at 16:15 hrs (GMT+1) on the 27 April 2012 expressing his gratitude to the participants.

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