



A legally binding agreement for forestry in Europe

60 % of the forested area of Europe is owned by family forest owners. These owners are faced with many challenges, especially since they have no economies of scale. In the global race against the climate change and along with the consistent flow of new demands and strategies the forest owners must meet guaranteed fair conditions.

Family forest owners' has a long standing commitment to sustainable forest management to pursue the proper balance between economic, ecologic and social considerations.

The most important value for private forest owners throughout Europe is to be able to make their own decisions in order to continue generation-bridging tradition of sustainable management of private forests. With increased focus on forest in relation to climate change, biodiversity and bio energy this right has been and might become even more challenged in the near future.

A legally-binding agreement on forests, made by people with knowledge about forests, forestry and forest policy, is therefore needed.

At present above 100 different legal and non legal binding papers regarding forestry exists within the European Union and app. 20 different institutions deal with forestry related matters. There is therefore an urgent need for coordination and coherence – but this is not likely to happen with in the European Union as there is no formal basis for forest policy in the European Treaty.

Only by taking action now we can guarantee that forest owners will still be able to make their own decisions in the future, for if we do not take action, soon the decisions will be taken by others, from outside the forest sector.

MCPFE has lost speed and momentum. However, the basis of MCPFE is sound and very well accepted among the signatory countries, the scientific community and also a broad basis of stakeholders. To give MCPFE more power and retain the process as the leading pan-European forest policy process action is necessary. By upgrading MCPFE achievements to a legally binding instrument the whole forest sector will benefit from:

1. Stronger political recognition of the sector
2. Own strong instrument of and for the sector



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3. Sustaining the current institutional setting
4. A balanced approach to implementation of legislation
5. A more visible contribution to “high priority” topics
6. Stronger credibility of European forestry sector in the world
7. The opening of currently inaccessible funds
8. A strengthening of the competitiveness of the sector

With this background CEPF is committed to investigate the possibility of developing a legally binding agreement for forestry based on the MCPFE process.



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