The Voice of European
PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS
The Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) is the umbrella association of national forest owner organisations in Europe. Representing family forestry in Europe, CEPF promotes the values of sustainable forest management, private property ownership and the economic viability of the forest sector.

Based in Brussels, CEPF is a non-profit organisation, representing nearly 16 million forest owners. These are private individuals, families and cooperatives, which take care of approximately 60% of the European forest area.
Multifunctional European Forests
A Growing Resource in Responsible Hands

Forests cover about 40% of Europe's territory and contribute significantly to the social, economic and environmental well-being of Europe. While providing some 4 million jobs and a sustainable source of timber for the forest based industries, European forests deliver multiple goods and ecosystem services, including drinking water, clean air, CO₂ sequestration and recreation areas. In addition, forests contribute fundamentally to sustaining biodiversity, mitigating climate change, enhancing rural development and serving the increasing demands for biomass for bioenergy.

The proportion of forestland in private ownership in Europe

![Map showing the proportion of forestland in private ownership in Europe](image)

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**ABOUT 40% OF THE LAND** area within the EU is covered by forests, of which approximately 60% is privately owned.
The notion of private forestry refers mainly to small-scale forestry, which is often based on personal involvement and strong stewardship values, and is demonstrated through multiple-use forest management. Though most of the forestland in Europe is privately owned, the structure of private forest ownership is specific and considerable variations exist from country to country. Forest properties range from 0.5 hectare to more than 10,000 hectares in size. The average size of a private forest holding in the EU is about 13 hectares. However, the majority of private owners, approximately 2/3, have holdings of less than 3 hectares.

**SHARE OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOREST IN EUROPE:**

- **40%** public
- **60%** private

As resource holders, forest owners play a crucial role in implementing sustainable forest management and securing a sustainable supply of wood and other multiple goods and services.
Our Mission
CEPF’s mission is to represent and promote the common interests of private forest owners in Europe, and specifically at the EU level. CEPF aims to foster reliable and fair political framework conditions and strengthen the position of European forest owners in all forest sector relevant policy processes. This is particularly important as the European and international forest policy is strongly influenced by many other sectorial policies, such as climate, energy, environment, trade and agriculture policy.

By providing a platform for exchange and collaboration, CEPF serves as a bridge, enabling private forest owners from local and national levels to voice their concerns and feed their knowledge into international debates.

Our Objectives
1. To contribute to the development, implementation and promotion of multifunctional, sustainable and active forest management, in order to safeguard economically viable, socially acceptable and ecologically sustainable forestry in Europe and around the world.

2. To maintain and enhance healthy and vital forest ecosystems, which continue to provide a diverse spectrum of goods and services to society and the environment and to achieve a balance between the multiple interests and uses of forests.

3. To enhance the competitiveness of the forest sector and ensure that sustainable income can be generated by the multiple goods and services that the forests and their management provide.

4. To secure the acknowledgement of property rights, which guarantee a long-term commitment and sound and sustainable land management, adding to the prosperity and diversity of Europe’s landscape.
AS A EUROPEAN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION, CEPF’s mission is to strengthen the communication, collaboration and network of national forest owner’s organisations, bringing together different forest owners from all over Europe.

OUR ACTIVITIES

CEPF actively monitors and participates in all forest-relevant policy processes and initiatives, to maintain a strong voice for private forest owners at European level.

Focusing on Brussels policy business, CEPF’s activities are aimed at all relevant Directorates General in the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council, as well as other important European institutions.

CEPF has as an active role in different Commission advisory groups, for instance the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork, the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development, the Advisory Committee on Forest-based Industries or the Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature.

Besides cooperating with the EU institutions, CEPF is an active observer in several international leading governmental processes and organisations, which shape forestry and forest policy in Europe and worldwide, such as the Forest Europe process or those coordinated under the UN umbrella.

CEPF collaborates closely with other organisations relevant to the sector, such as the forest-based industry, the agriculture and rural sector, forest certification and research. In particular the European Forestry House, in which CEPF has its premises, facilitates the necessary collaboration and communication among a few key players of the European forest sector.

To strengthen the voice of forest owners at global level, CEPF is a member of the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA), which communicates private forest owner’s views in the international policy arena and provides a global forum for exchange of experience, ideas and information across different continents.
European Private Forest Owners
From Practise to Policy

Our Members
January 2014

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In addition CEPF has 4 associated members, representing forest owners from a specific region or forest cooperative:

- The French Forest Cooperatives Federation (UCFF)
- Austrian Forest Owner Cooperative (Waldverband Österreich)
- Association of Mediterranean Forests Owners (ArcMed)
- Confederation of Forest Owners from the Iberian Peninsula (CONFI)

CEPF represents 23 national forest owner organisations from 19 countries.
OUR ORGANISATION

The Secretariat team is composed of international experts with diverse backgrounds relating to forestry and policy. Since summer 2011, Aljoscha Requardt from Germany is the CEPF Secretary General.

CEPF’s activities are steered by a Board of Directors, appointed by the annual General Assembly and which meets about three to four times a year. The Board is geographically and politically balanced, its 10 seats are filled by representatives of the different national member associations. The Board is chaired by the CEPF President, Hubert de Schorlemer from Luxembourg (since May 2012).

The CEPF Working Group is the technical backbone of the Confederation, bringing together various experts from all member organisations. It helps to provide the necessary technical input and expertise to the CEPF Secretariat, and secures strong communication and cooperation between members, and with the CEPF Secretariat.

The CEPF Secretariat runs its operations in THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY HOUSE, located at Place du Luxembourg in the heart of the EU quarters of Brussels, opposite the European Parliament.
The Voice of European Forest Owners
From the Roots to the Crown

Confederation of European Forest Owners
National Forest Organisations
Local Forest Associations & Organisations

16 million European Forest Owners
Individuals - Families - Cooperatives
Experience the variety of Europe’s forests and the people who live in them...