



Union of European Foresters
www.european-foresters.org

EU FOREST ACTION PLAN

A statement of the Union of European Foresters

The European Union and the Member Countries

- A clear sharing of responsibilities between EU and national levels.
- An improved coordination of the EU forest matters between the Commission and the member countries and within the Commission.
- An active and comprehensive communication between the Commission and the Advisory Groups of the sector on the EU forest matters.
- The plan should give flexibility in the implementation of national or sub-national programmes in line with the objectives of the action plan and with the principle of subsidiarity.

Forestry in the European Union

- The principle of sustainability (economic, ecologic and social) for healthy and diverse forests in Europe.
- It is of the highest importance that both wood production and other economical forestry activities should be independent, market-oriented activities within a multifunctional forestry in a European framework.
- The different forest owner groups should be all recognised as important actors in the forest sector of the EU.

The Foresters in the European Union

- Professional foresters should be considered as important participators in the multifunctional forestry of EU. The managing of forests and the implementation of the action plan, as well as of the national programmes for forestry, are, for the most part, in the hands of professional foresters.
- The EU should encourage and support the interchange of views and experience between professional foresters in the EU and other areas. The EU should also ensure and support the development of capacity building, training, education and dissemination of experience of the different groups working in the forestry and wood chain.

The Forest Sector and the Rural Development

- Emphasising the major contribution of Forestry to Rural Development and the critical importance of the EU Rural Development Regulation (1698/2005) in this context.
- Further developing new and promising activities connected to the sustainable use of forest resources, for instance the use of wood for bioenergy and higher use of wood in all forms of construction.

The European Union and the Global Processes

- EU should be an active participator in international processes related to forestry.