



EP INTERGROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE,
 BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 in association with **FUTUREforest**

2011 The International Year of Forest
 Europe's forests –
 which way for the future?



6-7 September 2011
 Paul Henri Spaak Building, Brussels
 P3C050

Hosted by MEP Gaston Franco
Opening speech by H.E. Prince Albert II

This two-day conference at the European Parliament, Brussels, to celebrate 2011 the International Year of Forestry focuses on the challenges of sustainable management, conservation and development of forests in Europe and world wide against a changing climate.

Divided into two sections, the conference looks at practical solutions on the first day, organised by the INTERREG IVC project **FUTUREforest** – which will be launching its final report on three years of research and knowledge sharing on climate change and forestry across Europe.

The wider issues involved in bringing together all conflicting needs of the sector will be highlighted during the second day, run by **EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.**





The United Nations has declared **2011 the International Year of Forests** to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of forests. Millions of forest-dependant people play a vital role in managing, conserving, and developing the world's forests in a sustainable manner. It is estimated that deforestation and forest degradation are likely costing the global economy between US\$2.5 and US\$4.5 trillion a year, more than the losses of the recent and ongoing financial crisis. Urgent action is needed to protect the values of forests as an ecosystem sustaining local livelihoods in the face of climate change.

Since Copenhagen, Cancun and Nagoya, the status of forests as a common public good has become a worldwide achievement, recognising that forest fulfils multiple functions for society, providing economic, social and environmental benefits. Forest will also be at the heart of the forthcoming Rio + 20 event with a clear interaction between forest management and green economy. It has been understood that it is the right time to go further and to take action.

On the occasion of the 2011 International Year of Forests, it is now time to:

- Promote good practises, solutions, and the efforts done by those engaged in the sustainable management of forests (producers, retailing groups, consumers);
- Alert on the obstacles met in the field: respect of the populations' rights, fight corruption and illegal deforestation ...
- Reaffirm the link between the fight against poverty and the fight against deforestation (timber companies as tool for economic, health and environmental developments... within and on the edges of their concessions).



DAY ONE – 6 September 2011 - FUTUREforest

- 13:45 **Policies for sustainable landscapes**
Gaston Franco, MEP, Head of the Intergroup forestry branch
- 14:00 **The Green Paper and beyond – a challenge from dedicated foresters**
Dr. Georg Wagener-Lohse
- 14:15 **Europe on the way to Durban - climate protection, forestry and agriculture**, N.N. DG
AGRI
- 14:30 **Production focused Latvia goes sustainable**
Minister of forestry policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Latvia (TBC)
- 14:45 **More than nature protection – a new deal for Catalan forests**
Director of forest policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Catalonia (TBC)
- 15:00 **A new way for forestry – climate proofing Bulgarian Forests**
Georgi Kostov, Vice Minister Forestry, Republic of Bulgaria (TBC)
- 15:15 **Coffee break**
- 15:45 **City forests as an answer to climate protection**
Mayor of the city of Sabinov, East Slovakia (TBC)
- 16:00 **Changing the face of Welsh forestry**
John Griffiths, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Wales (TBC)
- 16:15 **Diversity of species backs up resilience**
Michel Roucan, Auvergne
- 16:30 **Landowners doing it together – commitment to integrated forestry**
Jörg Vogelsänger, Minister for Infrastructure, Land Brandenburg (TBC)
- 16:45 **Panel discussion on challenges for the European parliament to support sustainable forestry** – MEPs and representatives from nature protection and forestry organizations
- 17:45 **A view forward**
Gaston Franco, MEP, Head of the Intergroup forestry branch
- 18:00 **Buffet**



DAY TWO – 7 September 2011 - EP Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

8.00 – 8.50 **Registration** – Main entrance of the European Parliament, Altiero Spinelli Building, Side Place du Luxembourg

Opening Session

- 09.00 – 09.10** **Welcoming words and introduction by Gaston Franco, Member of the European Parliament (MEP)**
- 09.10 – 09.20** **Opening speech by H.E. Prince Albert II**
- 09.20 – 09.30** **Opening speech by Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action (TBC)**
- 09.30 - 09.35** **Video statement by Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment**
- 09.35 – 09.45** **Opening speech by EP President Jerzy Buzek (TBC)**
- 09.45 – 09.55** **Opening speech by Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN (TBC)**
- 09.55 – 10.00** **Family Picture**
- 10.00 – 10.30* *Coffee Break*

Round-table I

Forests: An issue far beyond just environmental questions

Moderator: MEP Struan Stevenson (TBC)

- 10.30 – 10.45** **The State of the World's Forests in 2011** – *Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director General - Forest Department - FAO*
- 10.45 – 11.00** **The link with health and local economic development** – *Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the European Environment Agency*
- 11.00 – 11.15** **An issue of Food security** – *Franz Fischler, Chairman of the RISE Foundation, Former Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development (TBC)*
- 11.15 – 11.30** **An issue linked to Human Rights** – *Christophe Bouvier, Regional Director for Europe, UNEP (TBC)*
- 11.30 – 12.15** **Debate**
- 12.15 – 13.15* *Walking Lunch*



Round-table II

Sustainable exploitation of forests: the role of research, knowledge-base and information-sharing

Moderator: MEP Cristina Gutierrez-Cortines (TBC)

- 13.15 – 13.30 Sustainable management of forests in Europe through research, knowledge-base and information sharing** – *Georg Erlacher, CEO OBf Austria, EUSTAFOR*
- 13.30 – 13.45 Monitoring and observing systems: Europe's contribution through GMES** – *Professor Jacqueline McGlade, Director of the European Environment Agency*
- 13.45 - 14.00 The importance of knowledge sharing** – *Dr Sjur Baardsen, Chair of the Forestry Domain of COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology*
- 14-00 – 14.30 Debate**

Round-table III

Preserving the multiple benefits of forests

Moderator: MEP Theodoros Skylakakis (TBC)

- 14.30 – 14.45 The results of ENPI-FLEG and the work on Forest Landscape Restoration** – *Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN (TBC)*
- 14.45 – 15.00 Partnerships: the example of Voluntary Partnership Agreements: challenges of the newly signed VPA with Indonesia** – *Saskia Ozinga, Campaign Coordinator, FERN (TBC)*
- 15.00 - 15.15 Sustainable developments in the Amazonian ecosystems: French-Brazilian cooperation** – *Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Former President of Brazil (TBC)*
- 15.15 - 15.30 An example of best practice: the conservation program on forests in Madagascar** – *Air France*
- 15.30 – 16.15 Debate**
- 16.15 – 16.45 Coffee Break*



Round-table IV

Innovative financing tools and programs for sustainable management of forests

Moderator: Angel Angelidis, Advisor for forestry issues, Directorate B “Structural and Cohesion Policies”, DG IPOL, European Parliament

- 16.45 – 17.00** **Innovative financing in the fight against degradation and deforestation –**
Jacques Le GUEN, Member of the Parliament in France (TBC)
- 17.00 - 17.15** **Forestry measures under the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy –**
Inazio Martinez de Arano, Executive President of USSE
- 17.15 – 17.30** **REDD+/LULUCF –** *Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment of Norway (TBC)*
- 17.30 – 18.15** **Debate**
- 18.15** **Closing remarks by the Chair**

Cocktail reception

Media coverage by (TBC):

- Arte
- TV5
- France2, France3, France5, France24
- RFI
- Euronews

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