



The European Forest Producer Organisations,



- ◆ Having regards to the objectives of the following European directives
 - Directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources¹
 - Directive on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable for transport²
- ◆ Having regards to the European biomass Action Plan aiming at increasing biomass use to around 150 M toe by 2010³
- ◆ Having regards to EU Forest Action Plan⁴ following key actions:
 - Key action 4 : promote the use of forest biomass for energy generation
 - Key action 5 : foster the cooperation between forest owners and enhance education and training in forestry
- ◆ Having regards to the following European Union objective adopted by the European Institutions in the "Energy Package" in 2007
 - Increasing the share of renewable energy to 20% of EU overall energy consumption by 2020
- ◆ Having regards to the Directive on renewable energy presently in discussion within the European institutions
- ◆ Having regards to the Communication from the European Commission on innovative and sustainable forest-based industries in the EU⁵ which indicates that:
 - A sustainable supply of wood raw material to the forest-based industries should be facilitated, better matching supply and demand. The supply of wood raw material for the industry as well as for the energy sector can be enhanced through an active sustainable forest management policy. Logistical relations between forest owners and industry have to be improved to expand supply
 - The possible gap between supply and demand could be mitigated if the total forest area and wood volume could be further increased through afforestation, reforestation and enhanced mobilisation

- ◆ Having regards the United Nations the study⁶ "wood resources availability and demands – implications of renewable energy policies. A first glance at 2005, 2010 and 2020 in EU/EFTA countries⁷ which anticipates that in 2010 and 2020, much more wood would be required than available if wood supply is not increased

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT AND
BIODIVERSITY**

European Forest Producer Organisations

- Believe that the respect of sustainable forest management principles as well as biodiversity protection allow a significant increase in wood mobilisation in Europe
- Insist on the positive environmental contribution from sustainably managed and regularly harvested forests which provide beneficial results in terms of CO₂ storage in wood and wood products, renewable resource supply, and answering social needs
- Recall that they have available high skilled technicians, committed to sustainable forestry, and that they are able to answer to any forest producers needs, requirements and questions whatever the size and the characteristics of the property
- Ask the European and national institutions
 - to support forest producer organisations to further enhance sustainable forest management as defined within the framework of Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)
 - to promote voluntary, cost-efficient certification schemes aiming at strengthening sustainable forest management in private forests of all sizes
 - to rely strongly on already existing sustainable forest management definitions agreed upon in MCPFE and implemented in voluntary certification schemes when they work on sustainable management legislation

**WORKING FOR ALL EUROPEAN
FOREST PRODUCERS**

European Forest Producer Organisations

- Consider that, due to their values, competence and experience, they are one of the major actors able to contribute to wood mobilisation in Europe, and to improve and increase wood supply from private forest, allowing wood industry and wood based energy to develop and increase their competitiveness
- Stress the urgent need to get into the under-managed forests
- Ask the European Union and the Member States, on the basis on legal and / or financial incitation,
 - to conduce private forest owners to be members of forest producer organisations,
 - to support specific actions that these organisations have set up in order to satisfy the needs of middle and small scale forest properties as well as new urban forest owners
 - to support the continuous adaptation of these organisations to new challenges and economic, societal and environment changes
 - to safeguard private property rights and to ensure that clear ownership is established for all forest holdings
- Are convinced that our organisations, especially from Nordic and Western Europe can share their experience with emerging forest producer organisations in the Baltic region and Central Europe in order to assist producers to organise themselves

¹ Directive 2001/77/EC - ² Directive 2003/30/EC - ³ COM(2005)628 Final - ⁴ COM(2006)302 Final - ⁵ COM(2008)113 Final - ⁶ Study conducted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the University of Hamburg and the European Commission and presented in Geneva, on the 10th of October 2007, at the UNECE/FAO Policy forum on "Impacts and opportunities of bioenergy policies on the forest and other sectors". - ⁷ 27 EU Member States + Norway + Switzerland + Liechtenstein



INCREASING WOOD SUPPLY CHAIN EFFICIENCY

European Forest Producer Organisations

- Consider it utmost importance that the efficiency in their wood supply chain (transports, logistics, platforms, Geographic Information Systems) is improved in a very short term in order to develop wood mobilisation, and to give to European wood industry a competitive advantage in wood world marketing
- Underline that this improvement require higher research and development investments
- Commit themselves to develop know-how exchange between forest producer organisations, mainly thanks to their European working group, set up within the frame of the European Forest Owners Confederation
- Call on the European Institutions and the Member States to clearly dedicate a part of their research and development funding to wood supply chain efficiency

PROMOTE AND DEVELOP FOREST INVESTMENTS

European Forest Producer Organisations

- Underline how difficult it is to gain comprehensive information of the private forest owners and their organisations, and stress the need to facilitate increased knowledge and communication with them. The special governance and values of the forest producer organisations should make it simpler to access information that ease getting into contact with forest producers
- Are convinced that wood mobilisation increase in Europe must be based on investments in forest management and infrastructure, including management planning (forest management plans, forest management reports, economic plans)
- Welcome the Council Regulation⁸ of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), in particular article 27 "Improvement of the economic value of forests" which enables financial support opportunities
- Ask the Member States to fully use the previous European measures in order to obtain favourable framework conditions in

private forests all over Europe, and especially supporting reforestation and tending of stands, land improvement (including roads), afforestation, investments in equipments, and forest operators training

- Ask the member states and the EU institutions to set up a tax system adapted to the long term activities of private forest owners. The promotion and development of private sustainable forest management and the use of forest resources need a stable tax system taking into account the special features of forestry and forest management
- Ask the European institutions to dedicate further attention to the forest sector in the future rural development policy decisions emphasizing the economic focus for Forestry
- Ask the Member States to strengthen legal and financial incentives to improve planning and counselling for private middle and small scale properties, provided that these activities are connected to increase effective forest management and harvesting

IN LINE WITH THE WOOD MARKET

European Forest Producer Organisations

- Are convinced that increase in wood mobilisation depends on:
 - a well-functioning wood market
 - forest producers having a sustainable revenue from their forest management and wood producing activities
 - wood industry and renewable energy sector having a secure wood raw supply, with competitive price and quality characteristics
- Commit themselves to defend the forest producers' long term economy and at the same time meet the requirements from the forest based industry and energy sector
- Urge the European Institutions and the Member States to strongly promote the use of wood, wood based products and forest based energy

COMMITMENTS

European Forest Producer Organisations

As organisations representing private forest producers needs and ability,

◆ **Want to secure** that we credibly communicate to the society our ability to sustainably increase the wood production and the long-term productivity in the European forests, and thereby taking care of environmental considerations

◆ **Want to secure** that we credibly communicate to the wood-based industry and the wood-based energy sector that we will succeed in meeting their increasing raw material demand, provided enabling market conditions

◆ **Want to secure** EU institutions as well as Member States governments that we are able to meet their long term targets for increased wood supply for industry and bio energy, provided enabling political framework conditions and support

If all the previous requirements are fulfilled

European Forest Producer Organisations

Commit themselves to increase the efficiency in know how exchange in the mutual interest of forest producers and of the wood based industry and energy sector, and increase the competitiveness of the forest based industry

Commit themselves to increase the participation in research and development in order to improve the efficiency in the wood supply chain

Commit themselves to develop an ambitious mobilisation action plan. The intention is to improve forest production and harvest in order to increase European wood supply with 20% from today to 2020

European Forest Producer Organisations

TRUST EU and Member States decision makers to rely on the specific high performance network of forest producer organisations to set up ambitious policies giving the opportunity for European Union to take place in the world competition as a model and a leader on sustainable management, renewable energy development and fighting climate changes, based on a strong forest and wood sector, that at the same time provides significant added value and employment opportunities

⁸ (EC) N° 1698/2005

