

C.E.F. ACTIVITY REPORT

31ST OF AUGUST 2013 – 15TH OF JANUARY 2014

• **31st of August 2013 – Budapest - A ceremony of taking over the Presidency of CEF** by dr. eng. Janos Halmagy, president of the Hungarian Foresters Union from eng. Ali Kucukaydin, President of the Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers. The ceremony was attended by Ali Kucukaydin, Mevlut Duzgun, Marian Stoicescu, Silviu Geană, Radu Apolzan, Janos Halmagy, Peter Dudas and Jozsef Dubravszky. At the meeting in Budapest it was presented an Activity Report for the period August 2012-August 2013 by the President of CEF, Ali Kucukaydin, a Draft Action Program for the period August 2013-CEF August 2014 by Mr. Janos Halmagy and a Draft Action Program of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe by Mr. Marian Stoicescu.

• **6-9 September 2013 – The International Manifestations of the Foresters - Băile Felix, Romania.** Have participated CEF forester members from Bosnia, Hungary, Moldova Republic, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The Program of the International Manifestations of the Foresters:

- Meeting of the Board of the Council of European Foresters and the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.) At the end of the meeting the following Statement was issued :

STATEMENT

Taking into account the role and the importance of European foresters activity to maintain and develop forests in Europe, the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) Board and the Advisory Group of Forestes Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.), during their meetings that they have had on 7 and 8 September 2013 in Baile Felix, Romania, decided to continue their participation in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe initiated by Forest Europe – The Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe, in order to establish the legal framework for the implementation of a sustainable forest managament to all forests in Europe.

Also, the Council of European Foresters Board and the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe decided to continue their initiatives to complet Annex I and Annex II of European Commission Decision No. 391/2004 with the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe. The A.G.F.E.E. could be co-opted by the European Commission for the recognition of monitoring organization for the implementation of EU Regulation No. 995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. Also, A.G.F.E.E. can be involved by the European Commission to review the monitoring organizations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. In direct contact with operators who place timber and



timber products on the market, A.G.F.E.E. can organize seminars and consulting services for them to meet the EU Regulation No. 995/2010.

Council of European Foresters

President

Janos Halmagyi

Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe

President

Marian Stoicescu

This Statement was published on C.E.F. website.

- SYMPOSIUM with the theme "*Premise for developing forestry law in Europe. The need to adapt forestry regulations in different European countries to the framework developed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe*"

Have presented documents : Ion Dubovici – Ukraine, Ali Kucukaydin and Mevlut Duzgun – Turkey, Zoran Govedar – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sari Zsolt – Hungary, Ioan Milesu, Radu Apolzan and Marian Stoicescu-Romania, Dumitru Galupa and Vladislav Grati – Republica Moldova

- International Sportive Competition „Consilva Cup” in football, chess, table tennis, darts, whist and backgammon. Have participated 200 foresters from 6 countries.

• 6-8 November 2013 – INC 4+ Session, Geneva

A delegation of 39 members of the Council of European Foresters attended INC4 + meeting in Geneva, 6-8 November 2013. In the plenary of INC4+ Marian Stoicescu presented the following CEF Statement for the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

The Statement of the Council of European Foresters

for INC 4+ Genève, 7- 8 November 2013

The Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) is an important part of the forestry sector from Europe and also an important part of civil society in the forestry sector in Europe.

C.E.F., an international NGO comprising until now nearly 60,000 foresters from 12 countries from Europe, participated with observer statute at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

At the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), C.E.F. has made proposals for the text of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and submitted to the INC three statements: to INC-Forests 3 from Antalya, to the Resumed INC-Forests 3 from Saint Petersburg and to INC-Forests 4 from Warsaw.



C.E.F. considers that the involvement of European foresters in developing a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe is a necessity to ensure a forestry expertise and a professional forestry background of the Agreement.

Taking the foresters' proposals into consideration in developing the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe could create a strong link between the theoretical basis of this Agreement and the implementation of the Agreement in practice.

After the approval and ratification of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, the Secretariat of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, together with operational bodies of the Agreement, will ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of this Agreement.

C.E.F. considers that in these operational bodies of the Agreement can be included the representatives of civil society in the forestry sector, including organizations of the foresters.

C.E.F. thanks to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the opportunity to participate in the development of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, which will be for the forestry sector in Europe and throughout Europe a huge step for ensuring sustainable forest management of all forests and the ratification of this Agreement will represent a historic event to equally recognize all forest functions: economic function, environmental function and social function.

This Statement was signed by all the participants at the INC 4+, Geneve, 7-8 November 2013.

• 4th of February 2014 - Acquired FOREST EUROPE observer status

At the request of C.E.F sent in 2013, Forest Europe granted the **status of observer for the Council of European Foresters in order to participate at the Round Table Meetings, Workshops & Working Groups and Expert Level Meetings**

• The International Symposium " Forest Strategies in different European countries " Bucharest - 10 April 2014

On 10 April 2014 were held in Bucharest the International Manifestations of the Foresters in which participated foresters from Bosnia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

The organizers of the International Manifestations of the Foresters from Bucharest were Consilva Confederation, the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe and the Romanian National Forest Administration Romsilva.

These International Manifestations of the Foresters included:

- The International Symposium on "Forest Strategies in different European countries"

- Ceremony for Awarding the Merit Diploma and the Crystal Trophy from the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.) to media personalities from Bosnia (Tihomir Levajac), Hungary (Kiraly Pal), Republic of Moldova (Vladimir Medoni), Romania (George Nuță), Serbia (Dragojo Blagojevic) and Ukraine (Gulyk Gryorii) who have distinguished themselves in promoting and supporting forest's interests and the role and importance of the foresters'activity
- Ceremony for Awarding the Merit Diploma and the Crystal Trophy from the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.) for the organizers of the International Symposium, Bucharest, April 10, 2014
- Ceremony for Awarding the Merit Diploma of A.G.F.E.E. for the authors of the presentations for the International Symposium on "Forest Strategies in different European countries", Bucharest, April 10, 2014.

In the official opening of the International Manifestations of the Foresters welcome speeches were presented by Mrs. Doina Pană – Ministry for Waters, Forests and Pisciculture from Romania, dr. eng. Adam Crăciunescu – general manager of Romsilva, dr. eng. Janos Halmagyi – president of the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) and dipl. eng. Marian Stoicescu – president of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.)

It was also presented the message dedicated to this manifestation sent by dipl. eng. Ali Kucukaydin, vicepresident of C.E.F. and president of the Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers.

During the International Symposium on "Forest Strategies in different European countries" were the following speakers:

- dipl. eng. Marian Stoicescu, Romania - "Study on institutional frame of the world and European organizations to develop general forest objectives and forest strategies"
- prof. dr. Zoran Govedar, Bosnia - "Forestry Strategy in the Republic of Srpska"
- dr. eng. Adam Crăciunescu, Romania - "Development Strategy of the National Forest Administration Romsilva"
- dr. eng. Janos Halmagyi and dr. eng. Kiraly Pal, Hungary - "Strategic directions of Hungarian Forestry Policy"
- dr. eng. Dumitru Galupa, Republic of Moldova - "Aspects of the implementation of the sustainable development strategy of the forestry sector in Republic of Moldova"
- acad . dr. doc . Victor Giurgiu, Romania - "About the Forest Strategy of Romania"
- prof. dr. Nenad Petrovic, Serbia - "Serbian Forest Development Strategy"
- prof. dr. Ihor Soloviy and prof. dr. Ion Dubovici, Ukraine - " The Ukrainian Forest Sector Development Strategy: Challenges and Perspectives"

At the end of The International Symposium on "Forest Strategies in different European countries", dipl. eng. Radu Apolzan, Romania, presented the Conclusions of the Symposium which will be sent to the institutions of the United Nations Organization, of Forest Europe and of the European Union.

• **Conclusions of the International Symposium " Forest Strategies in different European countries", Bucharest - 10 April 2014**

Members of the Council of European Foresters and of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe, participants from Bosnia, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia and Romania at the International Symposium "Forest Strategies in different European countries", Bucharest, 10 April 2014, presented to the institutions of the United Nations Organization, of Forest Europe and of the European Union the following conclusions of the Symposium:

- *The role, activity and the expertise of the foresters, of the regional, national or international foresters' organizations in forestry sector must be taken into account when developing forest strategies and forest policies at national and international level to ensure sustainable forest management of all forests;*
- *The European foresters' proposals to the national and international institutions and authorities are to ensure sustainable forest management to all the forests and to consider equally the ecological, social and economic functions of forests;*
- *Forestry sector, through sustainable forest management, can provide jobs for all socio -economic categories who work in this sector, helping to eradicate the poverty of the population in this area;*
- *Education and forestry research should be strengthened through forest strategy at national and international level, given their contribution to the future of forests and the life.*

NOTE: The Conclusions of the International Symposium were sent by the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe on 28 April 2014 to the United Nations Forum on Forests and on 30 April 2014 to Forest Europe – Unit Madrid.

• **The International Manifestations of the Foresters, Băile Felix, Romania, 4-7 September 2014**

In accordance with the Decisions of the Leading Councils of Consilva Confederation and Silva Trade-Union Federation were held in Băile Felix, 4 - 7 September 2014, the International Manifestations of the Foresters.

At their fourth consecutive edition, these manifestations organized by Consilva Confederation and Silva Federation from Romania were in 2014 one of the most important event of foresters organizations in Europe, with an attendance of over 300 foresters from 6 countries. From Romania have participated members of the Leading Councils of Consilva Confederation and

Silva Federation or their representatives, members of the counties foresters organizations from Romsilva or private forest units, Cătălin Diaconescu – Romanian State Secretary for Forests, Aurelia Cristea – Romanian Minister for Social Dialogue. The Hungarian delegation was led by Peter Dudas. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Ihor Soloviy and Ion Dubovici. The Turkish delegation was led by Ali Kucukaydin, President of the Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers. The Polish delegation was led by Bronislaw Sasin, President of the Polish Foresters' Union. The Republic of Moldova delegation was led by Anatolii Ciobanu, President of Sindsilva Federation.

C.E.F's Board Delegation was led by the President of C.E.F., Janos Halmagyi and the delegation of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.) was led by the President of A.G.F.E.E. Marian Stoicescu.

The program of the manifestations included the meeting of the Board of the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.), of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (AGFEE) and of the Leading Council of Consilva Confederation with foresters from Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Turkey, with representatives of foresters organizations, with members of the Forestry Academies from Romania, Ukraine, with some representatives of the Romanian Government, the Department for Water, Forests and Fisheries and representatives of Romsilva-National Forest Administration. Participation in the meeting of the Board of the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) was a real professional exchange among foresters from 6 countries and contributed to the development of the CEF Strategy for the period 2014-2019 and of the Actions Program of C.E.F. and A.G.F.E.E. for the period September 2014 - September 2015. A good contribution to the completion of CEF Strategy for the period 2014-2019 and of the Actions Program of CEF and A.G.F.E.E. for the period September 2014 - September 2015 had Barbara Koch, who sent the proposals of the German organization for these two documents. CEF Strategy for the period 2014-2019 and the Actions Program of C.E.F. and A.G.F.E.E. for the period 2014 - 2015 can be completed in January 2015, in Freiburg.

The meeting of the C.E.F's Board was followed by a press conference on issues of forestry policies and forestry strategies applied in some countries from Europe, attended by heads of foresters' delegations from Romania, Hungary, Turkey and Ukraine.

Of particular interest were the Photo exhibition "Landscapes from Bihor County" and the launch of Forests Almanac from 2015 by prof. Dr. Ing. Ioan Milesescu.

As with all previous editions, the International Manifestations of the Foresters included the International Sports Competition "Consilva Cup", the winners of the six sport probes of the competition (Chess, Table Tennis, Backgammon, Darts, Whist and Football) benefiting of the trophy "Consilva Cup", diplomas and plaques.

The International Manifestations of the Foresters, Băile Felix, 4 -7 September 2014, were an international event of special significance to whose success has contributed all the participants.

- **September 2014** - in Băile Felix the CEF's Board adopted the C.E.F. Actions Program for the period September 2014 - January 2016, which is included in the CEF Strategy and which contains:

1. To promote the importance and necessity of applying sustainable forest management in all the forests of Europe; this involves taking into equitable consideration all the forest functions: economic function, ecological function and social function;

2. In accordance with the C.E.F. observer status at FOREST EUROPE meetings -Round Table Meetings - Workshops & Working Groups - Expert Level Meetings, which C.E.F. obtained on February 4, 2014, C.E.F. will respond to the invitations received from FOREST EUROPE institutions. So far, C.E.F. has received the following invitations:

- Forest Europe Round Table Meeting on updating the Sustainable Forest Management Tools - Cuenca, Spain on November 3, 2014.

- Forest Europe Round Table Meeting on topics for the next Ministerial Conference - Cuenca, Spain on 4 - 5 November 2014.

- Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting to prepare Extraordinary Forest Europe Ministerial Conference - Cuenca, Spain on 6-7 November 2014. During the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe shall present its work for its consideration and possible adoption. Also, participants in the meeting will discuss possible topics for the 7th Ordinary Ministerial Conference, which will be organized in October 2015.

Observations:

- The invitations to these meetings and also to other meetings of the FOREST EUROPE institutions shall be analyzed by the C.E.F.'s Board and will be sent to all the C.E.F. members in due time.

- The delegations who will participate in FOREST EUROPE meetings shall be convened based on C.E.F. members' requests, by the C.E.F.'s Board.

- The proposals which the C.E.F.'s delegates will present to the FOREST EUROPE meetings shall be analyzed and set by the C.E.F.'s Board.

3. Continuing the C.E.F. requests to the European Union institutions (the European Commission, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Parliament) for:

- Establishing a Forestry Authority in the European Union. Forest Authority at EU level can regulate the legal framework of issuing forestry regulations, can regulate forest policies, forestry strategies and programs at EU level, can regulate the financial support from the European Union or from the EU countries for preserving forests and

their multiple ecosystem services (supporting, regulating, provisioning and cultural), applying the sustainable forest management or increasing forest area, can initiate the development of good practice guides and innovations to implement sustainable forest management and preventing illegal forest logging in some European countries, etc.

- Coordination and strengthening the role of the forestry institutions and their contribution to economic viability of forest sector and human well-being, its role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, preventing global environmental risks

- Obtain for C.E.F. the member status in the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork from the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission.

- Further requests to complete Annex 1 of the European Commission Decision of 23 April 2004 on the advisory groups of the common agricultural policy (2004/391 / EC) with the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe.

4. Participation of CEF to the UNFF meetings

5. Participation of CEF and Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe to events and meetings organized by CEF member organizations.

6. Encouraging the CEF Board, Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe as well as CEF member institutions to create a joint project on some of the most challenging prioritized topics of forestry taking into consideration the recent forestry agenda particularly in Europe. EU funds can be considered for financing. Such project can ensure the members of CEF and AGFEE come together frequently and strong the cooperation among them.

7. Strengthen and promote the role of forest related research in the science politics and the EU research strategy programs.

8. Enlarge the number of members to CEF to increase its importance.

9. This strategy can be completed by the C.E.F.'s Board according to the needs and opportunities

- The documents and the photos from the C.E.F. events and meetings were published on C.E.F. website: www.ceforg.eu

Janos Halmagyi

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Marian Stoicescu

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