



Tomasz Markiewicz

Vice President

Activity report

**GCM of UEF,
27th of September 2018 (Cosenza, Italy)**



According to the Article 7.7. of the UEF Constitution

„the Vice-Presidents shall assist the President and act for him/her in case of his/her absence or other hindrance.”

I was elected at the last Congress in 2017 (Mainz - Germany).





What is Forest Europe?

FOREST EUROPE (The brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) **is the pan-European voluntary high-level political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe.** FOREST EUROPE develops common strategies for its **47 signatories** (46 European countries and the European Union) on how to protect and sustainably manage their forests.

Since 1990 the FOREST EUROPE process has led to achievements such as **the guidelines, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.**

Commitments endorsed by the ministers serve as a framework for implementing sustainable forest management in the European countries, adapted to their national circumstances and done in a coherent way with the rest of the region, and strengthen international cooperation at the same time.

FOREST EUROPE is involved with other global and regional processes and initiatives dealing with issues of highest political and social relevance related to forests.

Slovakia currently holds FOREST EUROPE co-chairmanship.



Expert Level Meetings are the decision-making bodies between the conferences **Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998, Vienna 2003, Warsaw 2007, Oslo 2011, Madrid 2015**. The Expert Level Meetings are attended by representatives of FOREST EUROPE signatories (European states and the European Community) as well as by observers from non-European countries, international organizations and a variety of stakeholders, including environmental and social NGOs, forest and land owners' associations, forest industry and the scientific community.

Oslo, Norway, 24-25 November 2009;

Oslo, Norway, 23-24 March 2010;

Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 December 2010;

Oslo, Norway, 30-31 March 2011;

Madrid, Spain, 14-15 February 2012;

Madrid, Spain, 6-7 March 2013.

Valladolid, Spain, on 4-5 February 2014 Cuenca, Spain, 6-7 November 2014

Madrid, Spain, 30 June – 02 July 2015

Bratislava, Slovakia, 11-12 May 2016

Bratislava, Slovakia, 28-29 November 2017 [Summary_key-decisions-of-ELM_approved.pdf](#)



In my activity report in 2015 I wrote:

... but... Forest Europe is the political process.

In the beginning of 2014 in Ukraine the conflict has started and Russia is against European initiatives since then.

Summer 2014 – Russian view on document ELM: **There is no reference in the Oslo Ministerial Mandate or in the INC decision to the possible role of Forest Europe in holding intergovernmental negotiations on the LBA. The ELM, in accordance with its functions, shall focus on the technical preparations to the EMC while not entering into substantial issues.**

Last meeting, RoundTable meeting – Bratislava 19-20 September 2018.

Austria represented the opinions of EU countries.

Countries have pointed to a faster growth of the timber sector compared to others and, therefore, to the necessary tools for protection.

...but Russia has made proposals e.g.:

- expand the list of countries - the list of countries was defined in Oslo and its change would mean the process should be reversed,
- terminology should be changed.

No progress has been made. The possibility of transferring the process under FAO or UNECE umbrella.




Forest Europe growing life

Work Programme

Pan-European Follow-Up of the 7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference, Madrid, October 2015

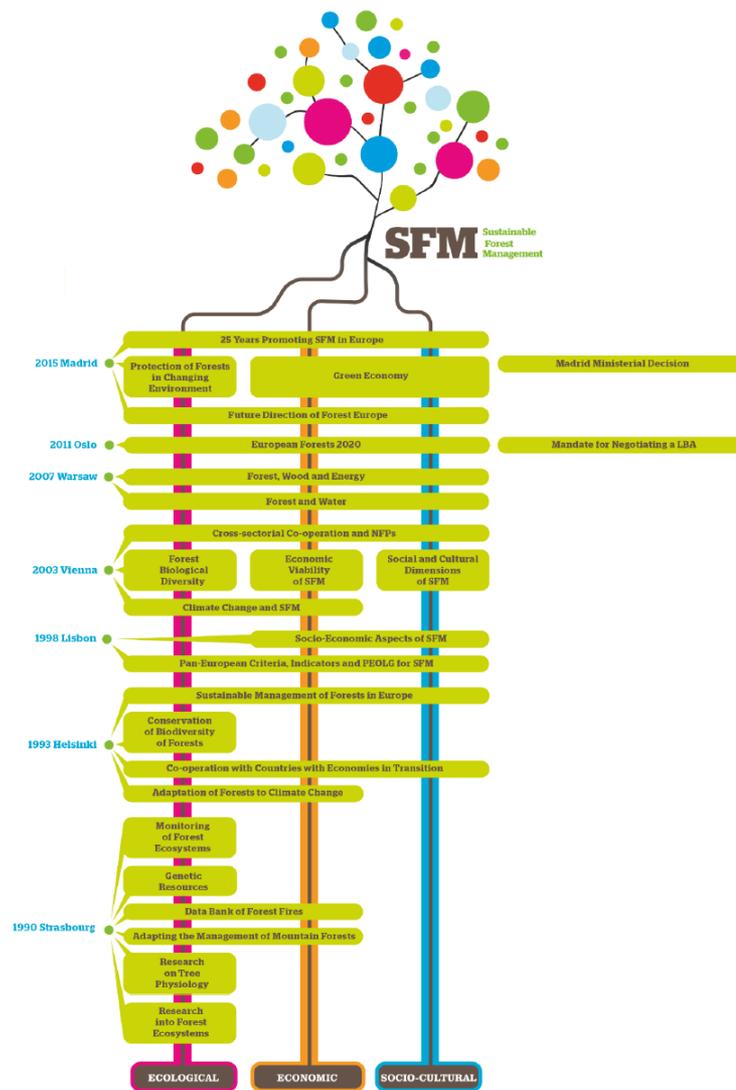


Figure 1.: Decisions and resolutions adopted at seven Ministerial Conferences during 1990–2015 and their relation to the three pillars of SFM. Ministerial commitments related to the Legally Binding Agreement are positioned separately, in the right blocks. Please note that the titles of the Resolutions are shortened titles.



At the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, Oslo 2011, the ministers adopted the Oslo Mandate for negotiations of **the legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe** and decided to take further international action and established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC).

Four sessions of the INC were convened during 2012-2013.

The Committee elaborated the substantive part of the agreement through negotiations at INC1 (Vienna, 2012), INC2 (Bonn, 2012), INC3 (Antalya, 2013) and its resumed session (St. Petersburg, 2013), INC4 (Warsaw, 2013) and its resumed session (Geneva, 2013) and concluded ad referendum on the substantive part of the text.

At the Resumed Fourth Session of the INC held in Geneva (Nov. 2013) the Committee concluded its work; however **the full agreement was not reached due to significant differences of views on some issues.**

LBA on forests in Europe would have an added value.



Conclusion:

UEF should continue its involvement into
Forest Europe process

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!