



**XXI GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING 2018
OF
"THE UNION OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS"
27. – 30. September 2018
PARCO NAZIONALE DELLA SILA
(Cosenza – Calabria – Italy)**

Greeting Speech

Hasan Türkyılmaz

PRESIDENT of "Chamber of Forest Engineers" of Turkey



PRESIDENT of the "Council of European Foresters"



Dear President,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies,
Gentlemen,

First of all, I want to share my pleasure to be here and greet you with respect.

I would like to thank to the President Andrea SISTI and his team on behalf of the “Association of National Agricultural and Forestry Engineers of Italy- *Consiglio Dell Ordine Nazionale dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali*” for hosting and organizing this meeting here. I also would like to thank to Mr. Michael Diemer, the President of the “Union of European Foresters” and the Management for inviting us and organising this meeting in this lovely place.

I would like you to inform that, I have been attending to this important meeting in order to represent “The Chamber of Forest Engineers” of Turkey as its President.

The Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkey is a non-governmental organisation established with the line of Turkish Constitution to represents its members. According to the Turkish Constitution it has a special status. It has “public corporate entity” and according to the relevant legislations it has “public institute nature”. Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkey was founded with a law enacted by Parliament.

According to the related Law, the “Chamber of Forest Engineers” is the legal representative of three different professional groups.

These;

- a) Forest Engineers,
- b) Forest Industrial Engineers,
- c) Woodworking Industrial Engineers.

A large number of its members work in forestry related departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

These Institutes are as follows;

- a) General Directorate of Forests
- b) General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks,
- c) General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion.

In addition, there are members working in public institutions such as General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works and General Directorate of Highways. On the other hand, there are members working in their own workplace and working in private sector companies.

The Chamber of Forest Engineers is working hard to be an active player in the international arena in addition to its activities in Turkey. Today, it is the president of the “Council of European Foresters” which its members reach to around 60 thousand.

In line with this context, we attach great importance to our membership of the “Union of European Foresters” and here I would like to share our satisfaction to be here with your distinguished colleagues.

This year, the Chamber of Forest Engineers is participating with a team of 3 people.

President Hasan TÜRKYILMAZ is the president of both the Chamber of Forests Engineers and the Council of European Foresters. Hasan TÜRKYILMAZ, who was elected as the president of the “Chamber of Forest Engineers” in April 2018 and President of “Council of European Foresters” in August, is also the Chief Inspector of the General Directorate of Forests of Turkey. After graduating from Black sea Technical University as a forest engineer, he worked in various positions such as Regional Director for Forestry, Director of Forest Management and supervisor of Forests.

Mehmet ÜSTÜNYER is the Secretary General of the Chamber of Forest Engineers. At the same time, he is working as the Ankara Forest Directorate Manager at the General Directorate of Forests. Being responsible for forestry operations in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, Mehmet Üstünyer carries out an extremely important task.

İsmail BELEN works as the “external relations consultant” of the Chamber of Forest Engineers. On the other hand, he is still working as the “Senior Agriculture and Forestry Expert” at the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, an institution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Previously, he served as Deputy General Manager in charge of Forestry and as the President of Committee of the Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea” which is a body of the FAO.

As the Chamber of Forest Engineers, we care about the “Union of European Foresters” and would like to express our desire to work more actively, our willingness to take part in institutions and our desire to host various meetings.

I would also like to express our willingness to cooperate directly with non-governmental organizations here. On the other hand, we think that there is a possibility of cooperation between the UEF and the “Council of European Foresters” and we want to develop it.

I would like to thank you again and hope that I wish our meeting to be successful.