



**Union of European Foresters**  
[www.european-foresters.org](http://www.european-foresters.org)

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**Union of European Foresters  
Governing Council Meeting  
Gmunden, Austria**

## **DECLARATION IN CONNECTION TO THE FIRST EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK**

The first European Forest Week 21-24.10.2008 is held at a time when we face big challenges in society and the forest sector. Climate change with increase of catastrophic occurrences - e.g. fire risk, the growing need of renewable sources of energy, environmental protection are examples of major questions that society and forestry are facing in the sector today.

The forest resources in Europe contain many ways of supporting society with welfare and wood products. The resources must however be more efficiently used under due consideration to protection and preservation of nature in general. Society needs the many products and amenities coming from forestry. Besides increasing the welfare-products of forestry there is a need for more wood both for industry and energy. All forest goods are to be mobilised in a sustainable manner from the forest and used with best possible efficiency.

We must increase our knowledge on availability and access to forest resources and goods, and on the challenges that are present in mobilization of these resources. Our experience from best forest practice together with accurate forest inventories will help in meeting these challenges.

From a professional point of view based on sustainable forest management and a holistic approach the professional foresters are key actors in the sector both now and in the future.

- Foresters have a wide knowledge of the sector and they are key actors in mobilizing the needed additional quantities of forest goods and services from the forests.
- Foresters have a central role in education and training to ensure a sustainable development of the energy sector and the multifunctional use of forests.
- Foresters have a central role in bioenergy sector leading to a high level of innovation, technological development and research.

The large network of professionals in Union of European Foresters is today working hard for the best of the forest sector in Europe. In order to develop the forest resources for the future, there is a need for additional and skilled human resources within the forestry.

The forest sector of Europe is essential to the welfare of all European societies, and is able to support a good and exciting future. Make every week a forest week in Europe!