

MCPFE EXPERT LEVEL MEETING

12 – 14 February 2003, Vienna, Austria



4th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE
PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

VIENNA RESOLUTION 5

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

*Final version as agreed at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting
12-14 February 2003, Vienna, Austria*

1. Recognising the threats posed to forests by human induced climate change, including their ability to provide multiple benefits for society, and being aware of the role of European forests in the global carbon cycle,
2. taking into account Resolution H4 "Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change"¹ the decisions in the follow-up to the UNFCCC², its Kyoto Protocol and the Marrakech Accords, as well as the decisions taken at the WSSD³,
3. underlining that the main emphasis should be put on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,
4. aiming to ensure the sustainable management of European forests and the sustained provision of their multiple benefits whilst enhancing their contribution to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

5. contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas net emissions, inter alia from burning fossil fuels through
 - a) promoting the efficient and sound use of wood in order to replace non-renewable resources and energy intensive production techniques,
 - b) promoting a significant increase in the efficient generation and use of bio-energy from sustainably managed forest resources as well as wood residues,

¹ This reference applies only to those MCPFE countries that have signed Resolution H4.

² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

³ World Summit on Sustainable Development

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6. contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol by maintaining the carbon stock and enhancing carbon sequestration of forests in Europe through
 - a) encouraging sustainable forest management practices, taking into account the possible implementation of forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol,
 - b) national forest programmes or plans that provide appropriate guidance so that afforestation and reforestation takes due regard of environmental, in particular biodiversity, economic and social values, with a view to mitigating potential negative effects of large scale afforestation,
 - c) supporting research and analysis on the potential scope and methods of carbon sequestration in forests and of carbon storing in forest products, of related benefits and costs as well as ways and means to share them,
7. support research and, as appropriate, monitoring activities to better understand the possible impact of climate change on forests and on their goods and services, and on their ability to reduce the impact of disasters, such as extreme weather events, including floods, and other calamities,
8. enhance policies and measures and develop forestry for a better adaptability of forests to climate change,
9. further contribute to the on-going work under the UNFCCC on the elaboration of methods to estimate, measure, monitor and report changes in carbon stocks in forest ecosystems and forest products, based on existing systems and in co-operation with relevant organisations,
10. share experiences at the pan-European level on forest-related national and regional strategies for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and contribute to develop related policies; contribute actively to the further deliberations of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol in order to ensure that decisions on forest-related measures as well as their implementation are taken in line with sustainable forest management.