

FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

28 – 30 April 2003, Vienna, Austria



VIENNA RESOLUTION 2

**ENHANCING ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE**

1. Noting that economic viability is a key pillar of sustainable forest management and of crucial importance for maintaining forests and their multiple benefits for society, contributing to sustainable development and to human livelihood especially in rural areas,
2. being aware that sustainable forest management in Europe relies on millions of private owners, forest-related enterprises, public bodies as well as on a highly qualified workforce, and being aware that forests provide raw material, goods and services for a range of sectors and are a basis for income and employment,
3. concerned that conditions for sustainable forest management have led to economic challenges for the forest sector in many regions of Europe,
4. recognising that forests provide a broad range of social, cultural and environmental values to society, striving to improve the economic viability of sustainable forest management through income generated from marketable goods and services as well as, where appropriate, from revenues from currently non-marketed values,
5. building on the related Resolution L1 "People, Forests and Forestry – Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management" and its follow-up as well as the relevant decisions taken by the UNFF¹, the WSSD² and the CBD³,
6. aiming to enhance the contribution of European forests and forestry to sustainable development and to human livelihood, especially in rural areas, through encouraging new perspectives and approaches to secure economic viability,

the Signatory States and the European Community commit themselves to

7. adjust policy and legal frameworks and instruments to support sound enabling conditions for sustainable forest management that encourage investment and economic activity in the forest sector, including effective measures for forest law enforcement and for combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade,
8. promote the use of wood from sustainably managed forests as an environmentally friendly, renewable and reusable raw material, and thereby contribute to sustainable production and consumption patterns,

¹ United Nations Forum on Forests

² World Summit on Sustainable Development

³ Convention on Biological Diversity

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9. improve enabling conditions for the market-based provision of a diversified range of non-wood goods and services from sustainably managed forests, inter alia, through identifying and removing unintended impediments and setting appropriate incentives,
10. work towards common approaches to the practical application of the valuation of the full range of goods and services provided by forests and contribute to existing information systems, in co-operation with relevant organisations; incorporate the outcome of these valuations in relevant policies and programmes,
11. enhance the competitiveness of the forest sector by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among all relevant stakeholders, notably for the efficient provision of new and improved wood and non-wood goods and services,
12. support research as well as mechanisms for the dissemination of generated knowledge,
13. enhance the quality of education, training, extension and skills conducive to the sustainable and competitive development of the forest sector; encourage stakeholders to continuously improve the working environment as well as the safety conditions of forest owners and the forest workforce,
14. strengthen the support of institutions concerned with workforce safety and education as well as related research, thus contributing to the future availability of a highly qualified staff and workforce,
15. enhance inter-sectoral co-ordination and collaboration of all sectors relevant for an economically viable management of forests,
16. promote the incorporation of the maintenance and enhancement of the economic viability of sustainable forest management into rural development policies and strategies,
17. promote the use of innovative economic instruments for achieving forest related goals and targets,
18. encourage the voluntary co-operation of forest owners to develop opportunities for improving the economic viability, in particular of small-scale forest holdings,
19. promote the development of and encourage the participation in associations of forest owners, of the forest workforce and of forest entrepreneurs, in particular in Central and Eastern European countries.