



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from: General Secretariat
to: Working Party on Forestry
date: 21 January 2013

Subject: Summary of discussions

I. 10th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Debriefing from AHEG-2

The Presidency presented a short debriefing from the second meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG-2) and outlined the options and recommendations proposed by the Co-Chairs of AHEG-2 in their report to UNFF, of which a hard copy was made available to delegations.

In their comments, delegations and the Commission:

- indicated that AHEG-2 had a successful and balanced outcome;
- underscored the need for the EU and its Member States to define the building blocks for their negotiating positions on forest finance, with a view to UNFF-10;
- stressed the need to find means for furthering the Facilitative Process.

2. Invitation from the Chair of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) for a nomination to the UNFF-11 Bureau

- the Presidency informed delegations of the invitation by the Chair of WEOG for a nomination of a candidate from the EU for membership in the Bureau of UNFF-11, indicating that the UNFF Secretariat should receive the candidacy by 11 March 2013;
- FI informed of its intention to nominate Mr Heikki Granholm as candidate, indicating it would communicate this nomination through the proper channel in New York. AT indicated support for the FI candidate.

3. Key issues on the UNFF-10 agenda and process of preparation for UNFF-10

- the Presidency invited delegations to indicate, **by the next meeting of the Working Party on Forestry**, on 20 February, whether their ministers would participate in the High Level Segment (HLS) at UNFF-10;
- HR indicated that the host country agreement between UNFF and Turkey would be signed this week and that invitations to the HLS would thereafter be sent to all the UNFF member countries; HR further indicated that a decision on adding new items to the UNFF-10 agenda¹ would be taken at the UNFF Bureau meeting on 6 and 7 February;
- the Presidency presented a draft indicative roadmap for the preparation of EU and MS statements and positions for UNFF-10 and invited delegations to volunteer to participate in the working groups (WGs) that would carry out that task;
- delegations took the view that there was no need to prepare a ministerial declaration for UNFF-10;

¹ See summary of discussions of WPF meeting on 7 January 2013 (5233/13)

- FI, supported by the other delegations, argued that the Task Force on Forest Finance must continue its work on the UNFF agenda item dealing with means of implementation for SFM; FI further indicated that it was interested in participating in the discussion on the UNFF roadmap to 2015 and to take part in the WG on forests and economic development;
- CZ indicated its willingness to participate in the WG on forests and economic development, points a) and b);
- the Commission indicated it could contribute to the EU preparation in the WG on forests and economic development, points a) and c), and in the WGs on emerging issues and on means of implementation;
- FR also signalled its readiness to volunteer, indicating it would specify later on which topics;
- the Presidency invited delegations to further reflect and **indicate in writing, by 4 February**, to the GSC and the Presidency², the working groups in which they volunteer for the preparation of EU and MS statements and positions; the Presidency further indicated that it would look into the possibility of having an additional meeting of the Working Party on Forestry in March.

II. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a LBA on Forests in Europe

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