

The ENFE newsletter

more information at www.enfe.net

Chairman's Voice



Dear Colleagues,

*In this issue of our **News** we wish to draw your attention to a hot topic on policy level - the development of a new Forest Strategy where we need to invest our efforts in the near future to raise contractors' views.*

*I further have the pleasure to inform you that our website has been refreshed and that we are keen to maintain it as an exciting place to search for information about our activities. Not at least we have a new section where we make it easier to find "tools and support" information, like the new **Guide to Services in Certified Forests**. Please see yourself while visiting*

www.enfe.net.

Yours,

Simo Jaakkola

ENFE Chairman

IN THE FOCUS:

EU Forest Strategy

The EU Forest Strategy is actually under revision. Since 1998 the European Union has implemented a Forest Strategy which attempts to co-ordinate the various European forest related policies into a focussed framework. The Forest Strategy is the only political framework which directly aims at forestry, since the European Union does not have a common forest policy.

While the numerous forestry related fields in European policies have evolved over time and since the European Union has enlarged the time is right to review the Forest Strategy. Consultations and negotiations in the European Council and Commission have started about two years ago. Stakeholders and experts are now invited to contribute to the definition of the new Forest Strategy and the subsequent Forest Action Plan.

Very recently a Workshop was jointly held with members of the Standing Forestry Committee and the Advisory Group Forestry and Cork, where the latest activities were presented.

The core action of the last month was a working group of members of both committees to present stakeholder views and expectations for the development of a new Forest Strategy.

Report of a Standing Forestry Committee Working Group

The core result of the actual debate is that there is a true need to continue with a Forest Strategy. New challenges like forest protection, climate change and energy policies must be addressed. The Strategy shall follow a holistic approach and provide a strategy framework for the coordination of the forest related policies.

The 30 page document looks in depth into the fields of future relevance, and concludes with a very strong recommendation to improve the coordination, cooperation and communication of forest related issues among EU Member States, between Member States, the Commission and stakeholders.

The full report can be downloaded from the internet at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/publi/sfc_wg7_2012_full_en.pdf

Next Steps

The debate about the new strategy will be continued in the course of this year. The stakeholders who provided their input are proposing that they keep track on contributing through their respective committee work. ENFE will use its involvement in the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork to make sure that contractors' interests will be respected in the new Strategy.

Contractors' views in the actual debate

The recent workshop in Brussels with the Standing Forestry Committee and the Advisory Group Forestry and Cork was attended by the ENFE Chairman Simo Jaakkola and the Honorary and former Chairman Barrie Hudson.

Barrie Hudson actually was invited as a senior expert to contribute with his personal expertise and opinion. He has wide national, European and International reputation with academic background linked to practical experience in rural land use, forest contracting and biomass supply. Since he led the European Network for ten years his position is well in line with the actual ENFE political strategy. Therefore, we will let him express the contractors' position and invite to read his presentation.

A reaction to the SFC' Working Group Report

Presentation of

J Barrie Hudson OBE and ENFE Honorary Chairman

at the EU Forestry Strategy Workshop, 4 July 2012, Brussels.

One can only offer views and opinions of those parts of the strategy report that one has direct experience and as a result I would wish to restrict my comments to two issues

1. The co-existence between the Bioenergy and the forest products industries.
2. The sustainability of forests, in particular the sustainability of the forest workforce.

The co-existence between the Bioenergy and the forest products industries

The following is an extract from the "UNECE/FAO Policy Debate on Wood Energy", held on 8 May 2012 in Geneva.

"The benefits of using wood as a source of energy were highlighted by speakers representing the wood industry, utility companies and forest owners and entrepreneurs. However, these actors are all well aware that economic and ecological responsibilities should not be neglected; the use of wood for energy purposes should not harm the demand and supply for industrial use or damage the vitality of forests."

The use of wood for energy purposes should not harm the demand and supply for industrial is where I would wish to focus. It is an important statement and I would like to support that by Member State data from my work consulting to Forestry Commission Scotland on the usage and demand for wood fuel in Scotland. This survey has been ongoing annually since 2005 and has recorded the growth of wood fuel use in Scotland rising six fold in 5 years. In the calendar year 2010 the total amount of wood fuel used amounted to some 1.2 million green tonnes; of that total 0.83mgt (70%) was used in the forest products and sawmilling industries in process heating and kilning. Continuing expansion of bioenergy will help to achieve the renewable energy targets sought by the Commission, but could place at risk in this example the 3,000 Scottish jobs in the value added processing sector, worth some £650 million each year, as well as the nearly 1m tonnes of wood fuel that is currently used by the processing industry. A body blow to biomass in Scotland.

The Geneva meeting went on both to stress the need for promoting dialogue and co-operation between the stakeholders on energy issues and also, a point outlined in the Forest Strategy the fundamental need for improving energy statistics to enable the actors in the industry to fully understand the supply and demand issues. I have just quoted the Scottish example where the wood fuel usage data is readily available, but

in both England and Wales it is not. Unless Member States can collect/collate/publish this data, the excellent work ongoing in Europe on wood mobilisation could well be fruitless.

My second topic is that of...

The sustainability of forests, in particular the sustainability of the forest workforce

Sustainable Forest Management SFM is possibly one of the most common and most fashionable acronyms in the forest industry at the current time. Google found 1.2 million results in 0.29 seconds.

“SFM” appears 11 times in the 31 page working document, once every 3 pages. “Workers” and “Entrepreneurs” both appear once, “Contractors” not at all.

A definition of SFM was developed by MCPFE, and has since been adopted by FAO. It defines sustainable forest management as:

“The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.”

It is the economic and social functions that I would wish to concentrate on which has its own acronym (just made up) SFW Sustainable Forest Workforce. I am very proud of my previous role as Founder Chairman for 10

years (currently Honorary Chair) of the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE) which has been spent in attempting to get over the message of a SFW.

The mobilisation of timber needs a sustainable and profitable entrepreneur led workforce able to continue to invest in equipment and manpower to harvest and deliver to the processing and biomass industries their raw material supplies which are forecast to increase some 50% from the current level of some 800 million m³/yr to some 1.2 billion m³ by 2020. Large amounts of investment will have to be made to meet the growth of demand for energy wood. Putting efforts to the R&D is good, but at the same time we should focus also on capacity building (workforce, machinery, know-how forest level).

This capacity building must start with the workforce which is an ageing workforce. 25% of workers in the forests of Europe are 50 years and older (by 2020 most of them will have gone!). Even in the fully mechanised Nordic countries 37% are 50 or older (by 2020 a lot of them will have gone!). The forest sector will have to compete with all other sectors for new entrants and they will have to be motivated to come into our industry, they will have to be educated and trained to be not only manual workers or machine operators, but also business men capable of managing fleets of machines say two to five harvesters and two to five forwarders which can

require investment well in excess of €1,5-4 million. And some of them should be capable also to produce multi-services (from forest management to wood delivery) to forest owners and industrial customers.

We need to improve the image of forestry to attract motivated and talented workers from other industrial sectors. This can be done by improving working conditions, health and safety and career opportunities. Profitability is in fact a prerequisite for improving working conditions and to pay decent salary to talented workers. There needs to be capacity building in forest operations which is a mutual task for the forest sector perhaps led (or certainly helped by) the new EU Forest Strategy.

I would suggest that the Forest Strategy should be strengthened in the following areas:

- motivate and support private enterprises both entrepreneurs, the forest owners and industry to train young entrants;
- increase public investment in vocational training for new entrants and the existing workforce;
- enhance a fair and transparent market environment (a “level playing field” and good prices for good services!);
- support research
 - to improve productivity and thus competitiveness in the value chain

- forest operations and working conditions,
- socio-economic frame conditions for securing future labour
- business skills and models and co-operation in forest operations
- Improving the knowledge base - an essential part of forest sector is the large numbers of SME's who employ hundreds of thousands of people. Information about how they survive in their business, what kind of services they provide and their business environment. What is the number of employees, level of salaries, amount working hours per year, what kind of working conditions do they have, their level of knowledge, their techniques. There is much knowledge missing on the SMEs and their workers. We need improved forest based SME information

and finally

- encourage public-private or industry-private partnerships to ensure application of good practice ensure application of good practice,

An example is the recent UK Forest Industry Safety Accord which states:

We the UK Forest Industry:

- *Believes that all fatalities and injuries are preventable*
- *Supports development of a new safety culture where the health, safety and the welfare of all working in the forest*

Industry is a fundamental priority.

- *Believes that through strong and committed leadership we can work collaboratively to significantly improve the health and safety performance of our industry.*

SFM needs SafeFW

Sticky Topic:

CERTIFICATION

CefCo

Contractors Guide to Services in Certified Forests

This guide is based on the results of testing the application of standards for contractors and forest owners in the course of the *CefCo* project

This guide points out the mutual and shared responsibilities of forest-owners and contractors in certified forests. A most crucial aspect which is covered by the guide is that the forest owner has to provide all relevant information which is related to certification criteria to a contractor, and that the contractor has to ensure that he has received this information to be able to carry out his tasks in compliance with the standards.

These guidelines focus on:

- Importance of keen knowledge of the respective standards
- Specification of certification requirements and shared responsibilities in contracts
- Communication and Information as a key to responsible services
- Documentation to proof good performance.

CefCo was financially supported by the EU Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI),

More information:

www.cefcoproject.org

events

FinnMETKO

2012
 Jämsä, 30.8.-1.9.

14th. FinnMETKO - fair will be held between 30.8. - 1.9.2012 in Jämsä /Finland.

FinnMETKO is the biggest and most important trade and sales fair for the heavy machinery trade in Finland.

Koneyrittäjien liitto, the Finnish Forestry Contractors Association is a co-organiser of this important event.

The FinnMETKO Fair is comprised of stands outdoors and indoors, work demonstrations, test drives and competition areas, all in all an exhibition area totalling some 120 hectares.