

### The ENFE newsletter

more information at [www.enfe.net](http://www.enfe.net)

#### Chairman's Voice



*Dear Colleagues,*

*In this issue of ENFE News I have the pleasure to present to you the result of our Board's actual debates on our political priorities for the near future.*

*I trust that this News will provide you with interesting information about our activities, and will facilitate an active debate in our membership and with partners in industry and politics.*

*Further, I encourage you to raise ENFE's political topics and priorities in your own country too, and add local "flavour" to the messages.*

*ENFE representatives will be at the forthcoming KWF-Tagung in Germany where we hopefully will meet many contractors and friends.*

*Yours,*

**Simo Jaakkola**

ENFE Chairman

#### ENFE BOARD DISCUSSES NEW POLITICAL STRATEGY

**At its last meeting in April in Paris the ENFE Board discussed its Political Strategy for the forthcoming years.**

##### The start - development

"Forestry Contractors strive for economic viability and enterprise development." This was the headline of the discussion paper on the Political Agenda we published in February 2010. In line with this Agenda ENFE was involved in a number of R&D projects and activities. They particularly focussed on competence development and certification.

With the actual results of research and development activities ENFE has achieved a set of tools and instruments which are readily available for application in practice, like the COMFOR tools, the European Chainsaw Standard and the Concert Curriculum and CeFCo results.

##### The way forward - priority on political issues

ENFE will raise its political representation and visibility in the actual political agenda in Europe. There is a clear expectation from the ENFE Membership that ENFE should more intensely contribute to political topics and evenly communicate political issues which are relevant to forestry contractors.

The ENFE Board is now prepared to define a political action plan for this and the following year. It will be the roadmap for lobbying and communication activities of the Board and the Secretariat. This action plan will be openly discussed in the ENFE Membership.

ENFE's mission statement which defines the core of the Action Plan ENFE is:

**"Forestry Contractors - the competent partners in the forestry value chains"**

##### Political priorities

ENFE's activities will be prioritized. The political arena in Brussels is so wide, that even larger organisations can not cover all fields which affect their activities.

ENFE further will extend strategic alliances with partner organisations to foster sharing information

and sharing workload in contributing to political debates.

Due to the political order of the day, there are three fields where we intend to focus our efforts of lobbying activities:

The first areas are the **Rural Development Policy** and the **EU Forest Strategy**. Both are actually under review and it is of high importance that contractors are aware what they will expect from the actual developments. And it is of high importance that contractors raise their voice to issues which will affect their operations.

The second area is **Bioenergy!** This topic rises more and more on the political agenda and it gets more and more importance in contractors' portfolio of services.

Thirdly, there is the wide field of **Social Policy** and **Social Dialogue**. This has been covered on the operational level with ENFE R&D to improve working conditions. ENFE now will raise its recognition as an employer organisation in the Social Dialogue related policies, since forestry contractors are the most important employers in forestry.

## Politics: Is wood energy good or bad?

This very actual question was discussed during the **"UNECE/FAO Policy Debate on Wood Energy"**, held on 8 May 2012 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The

discussions, led by Tom Miles, Chief Correspondent for Thomson Reuters News, dealt with the economic, environmental and social aspects of the increasing demand of wood for energy purposes.

Speakers from the wood industry, environmental NGOs, forest owners and entrepreneurs presented their views on the impact of increased use of wood for energy. As a positive aspect it was outlined that wood contributes to energy security and reduces the use of fossil fuels. Wood energy fosters employment in rural areas and motivates land owners to mobilise resources. But all speakers raised their concern that increased use of wood for energy must be realised under high economic and ecological responsibilities. Competition with the supply of industries with raw material is of major concern. Increased use of wood for energy must be accompanied by measures which ensure the future vitality of forests and the viability of forest based industries and contractors.

**The ENFE position on Wood Energy presented at this Policy Debate is as follows:**

### Many market opportunities for forest entrepreneurs from wood for energy

*The increased demand for wood, both for industry and energy use, actually has a very positive effect on the forestry service market. Higher harvesting volumes*

*raise market opportunities for service providers, generate income, and ensure employment in rural areas. Enterprises which harvest and transport wood are key actors in the wood energy markets! Forestry contractors are well aware that the mobilisation and use of wood for energy must be carried out with due economic and ecological responsibility. It must neither harm the demand of wood supply for industries, nor the sustainable vitality of forests.*

*Competitive use of wood for energy very much depends on the effectiveness of harvesting technique and the efficiency of harvesting methods and logistics. This calls for extensive research and development! It requires capacity building, training for advanced skills of operators, and education to ensure the future availability of a keen and competence work-force. Further, there is an ongoing need to invest in innovative machines and equipment.*

*Forest entrepreneurs appreciate the ascending value of wood and they expect that this must lead to prices for their services which allow investment in training and technique.*

*Reliable political targets for wood energy use and the specification of clear ecological conditions are crucially required. This will generate a business environment where innovation, investment and development of service enterprises will be encouraged.*

## STICKY TOPIC: CERTIFICATION



### Certification of Forestry Contractors

By end of this May a three year project on contractor certification which was carried out in co-operation of FSC International, Nepcon and ENFE is finalised!

The objective of the **CeFCo** project was to develop and test procedures that allow small, private forest owners to delegate forest management tasks to certified forest contractors. One goal was to simplify and facilitate the certification of forests in Europe.

Certification standards have been reviewed in each of the project countries, and the requirements have been grouped into requirements that must be met by the forest contractors and the forest owners respectively.

As a result two check-lists (sub-standards) have been developed in Bulgaria, Denmark Portugal and Spain. In late 2010 and in 2011, the check-lists were used by selected contractors and forest owners - both individuals and those organised in groups - in each pilot country, and the

effectiveness was tested during a third party assessment. In Sweden the PEFC contractor standard was applied in a group certificate managed by SMF, the Swedish contractors association.

Tests have provided positive results and have shown that certified contractors can play an important role in facilitating the certification of forests.

As a direct result of the project, NEPCon is now offering certification of forestry contractors according to the Rainforest Alliance SmartLogging standard.

FSC is considering options for contractors to become certified under the FSC system. The FSC has yet to make a decision regarding contractor certification, and has developed a discussion paper that explores several options for accommodating contractor certification in the FSC system.

The first option would allow contractors to become members of FSC-certified groups of forest owners. The second option would allow for approval of other contractor certification systems (e.g. SmartLogging) as evidence of compliance for landowners with some FSC forest certification requirements. The third option would be the creation of an FSC certificate for contractors.

More information:

[www.cefcoproject.org](http://www.cefcoproject.org)

## European Chainsaw Standard endorsed



At their 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (1-2 March 2012 in Brussels) members of the European Forest and Environmental Skills Council (EFESC) unanimously endorsed the result of more than four years of development work - the **European Chainsaw Standard**.

The European Chainsaw Standard proves the skills to operate a chainsaw safely and effectively by a certificate. It is based on the same assessment standards throughout Europe, and is now ready to be applied.

EFESC invites all actors and organisations which are concerned about skills in the green sectors to become members and actively involved in EFESC.

To demonstrate its strong linking in the whole green sectors EFESC has chosen the European Forestry House in Brussels, in the political heart of Europe, as its official address.

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## From 13-16 June KWF-Tagung Bopfingen/Germany



[www.kwf-tagung.org](http://www.kwf-tagung.org)

### European and German Forwarder Championship on Saturday 16th 2012 on the KWF Tagung at Bopfingen/Germany.

More information on rules and registration procedures are available at:  
<http://www.kwf-tagung.org/en/european-forwarder-championship-2012.html>



Foto: KWF

### Friday, 15 June is the **Contractors' Day!**

A whole day is dedicated to contractors. In the morning from 11-13 hrs a colloquium in memoriam of Hans-Jürgen Narjes the past Chairman of DFUV will be held in the Congress-tent. The afternoon faces the General Assembly of the German ENFE Member DFUV, and the evening is dedicated to a social gathering of contractors.

### Contractors party on the KWF-Fairground

The Board and Members of the German Contractors Association DFUV invite all contractors visiting the KWF-Tagung to an After-show party. The party of contractors and friends from all over Europe will start at 17.00 hrs on Friday, 15 June on the fairground.