

Meeting of the SWG FOREST

Date: Thursday 08 June, 2 pm – Friday 09 June 1 pm

Location: House of Estates (Säätytalo in Finnish)
Snellmanninkatu 9-11, 00170 Helsinki

Participants:

| Name | Country | Organisation |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Martin Greimel | Austria | Lebenministerium |
| Dietmar Jaeger | Austria | BFW |
| Doru Irimie | EC | DG RTD |
| Taneli Kolstrom | Finland | LUKE |
| Jean-Michel Carnus | France | INRA (coordinator) |
| Jean-Luc Peyron | France | ECOFOR |
| Vera Steinberg | Germany | BLE |
| Kalliopi Radoglou | Greece | Democritys University of Thrace |
| Tony Quinn | Ireland | DAFM |
| Annamaria Marzetti | Italy | MIPAAF |
| Tomas Bucha | Slovakia | NLC-SK |
| Anabel de la Pena | Spain | INIA |
| Karin Perhans | Sweden | FORMAS |
| Jan Svensson | Sweden | FORMAS |
| Alison Melvin | UK | FR |
| Robert Mavsar | int. | EFI |
| Marko Lovric | int. | EFI |
| Johan Elvert | - | FTP |

Apologies: Belgium, Latvia, Norway

Absent: Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland

Summary of main points of discussion and decisions

Thursday 08 June, 2 pm – 5.30 pm

1. Welcome by Dr. Juha Niemelä, Director General of the Department of Natural Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland with an overview presentation of recent developments in Finnish forest policy and National forest strategy 2025
2. Status of SWG FOREST and activities since last meeting in Bonn (sept 2016) were presented by Jean-Michel Carnus (pdf attached)
3. Updates on SCAR and on Forest-based Sector in H2020 relevant for SWG Forest ongoing work were presented by Doru Irimie (pdf attached). So far in

H2020, overall share of funding for forest-related R&I activities seems at least proportional to that in FP7, even though the share of dedicated topics may have decreased. Specific point of discussion concerned the draft WP2018-2020 for SC2, and the proposal made by several MS to extend the scope of EJP soils topic to also include forest soils (under discussion between EC and PC).

4. Progress report on expert study 1 “forest bioeconomy research in Europe” was presented by lead expert Marko Lovric (EFI). Methodology and initial results from mapping exercise were discussed and suggestions made for improvements of indicators. Additional comments on pdf attached are welcome as well as suggestions regarding the methodology for second part of the study on innovation examples and best practices.
5. Presentation of ERIFORE project on EU research infrastructure for circular forest bioeconomy (Mika Härkönen, VTT). See attached pdf and project website www.erifore.eu . The project provides the foundations for setting up a future distributed research and innovation infrastructure integrating full value chains from forest raw material to processing and final products and chemicals. Main output from the project will be to provide a model for this future infrastructure. Knowledge gained from ERIFORE on forest-based bioeconomy is already used for expert study 1.

Friday 09 June, 9 am - 12.30 pm

6. Progress report and discussion on expert study 2 ERACO “assessment of forest related ERA-NETs & Cost FPS” (Jean-Luc Peyron, Ecofor, on behalf of Andreas Kleinschmit, lead expert for study 2 – see attached pdf). The study has just been initiated and a preliminary draft report will be delivered at next SCAR FOREST meeting in October; final report will be delivered in February 2018. Methodology was discussed and 3 recommendations were made: (i) include EUPHRESKO ERA-NET in the analysis as this has also funded some forest-related projects; (ii) need to contact COST office and include some forest and wood related COST actions which have been funded outside previous FPS domain; (iii) the important role and link between COST actions and collaborative transnational projects will need to be clearly emphasized in the study, while peculiarities in scope and concept between the two be addressed through methodology.
7. Updates on Forest Technology Platform activities were presented by Johan Elvert (see attached pdf) with emphasis on the Bioeconomy Panel Manifesto, and on contribution to the preparation of FP9 (position paper). Long-term FTP vision and strategy for an increasing role of forest-based sector (FBS) in the future EU's bioeconomy were discussed. Climate mitigation potential, raw material renewability, harvest levels and forest age structure, biodiversity, soils sustainability, employment and trade balance, licence to operate, etc. were seen as some of the key issues for deployment of this long-term strategy.

8. Preparation of joint SCAR-COST connect event on forestry in 2018: the concept note prepared with COST office was presented (see attached pdf). Preliminary title needs revision and suggestions are welcome. The group recommended to involve official representative from Bulgarian Ministry responsible for FBS (contact suggested by Ecofor), and to look for official support during Bulgarian EU presidency. Both the date of 15 May 2018 and location of Sofia seem appropriate at this stage, as well as preliminary budget prepared by COST office. Actions to be taken: (i) set up a joint organising committee with COST and SCAR FOREST (core group + Tomas Bucha); (ii) prepare initial list of potential participants and first announcement ("save the date") to be circulated for review to SCAR FOREST group before September.
9. Update on CASA support action and SCAR activities. Vera Steinberg provided information on CASA progress emphasizing SWG FOREST contribution, the need to get the new website active, and the new focus of the SWOT analysis in WP3 on structure of SCAR. Most likely, it is possible to apply for financial support for the joint SCAR-COST Workshop. Vera will ask Alex Peer-Smith at the 16th June 2017 when they have a CASA Management Meeting and come back to Martin Greimel and Jean-Michel Carnus regarding financial support. Jan Svensson informed the group on progress with Bioeconomy SWG including recent discussions on definitions and intersections between Bioeconomy and circular economy, and on interactions with Bioeconomy observatory of JRC.
10. Revision of Work Plan 2017-2018: the rolling WP was updated with next SCAR FOREST meetings in Barcelona on 19 October 2017, and tentatively on 16 May in Sofia following COST connect event. Most likely, SCAR FOREST meeting in the second semester of 2018 will be linked to the new ForestValue ERA-NET.
11. AOB – regarding planned activity in 2018-2019 on international cooperation (Deliverable 4), the development of the International Bioeconomy Forum might provide a good opportunity for Forest input in the frame of the draft CSA topic in the H2020 WP 2018-2020.

SCAR FOREST members are very appreciative of excellent and generous support received from Finnish ministry for forests and from LUKE for the organisation of this meeting.

Jean-Michel Carnus
SCAR FOREST coordinator
jean-michel.carnus@pierroton.inra.fr