

32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

02-04 November 2020 / ZOOM

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language compiled

ERC/20/9 – Report from the Outcome of the Debate of the Joint Session of the 40th European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 77th UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)

Country	ERC Document reference	Statement
Switzerland (received 25 Oct 19:50)	ERC/20/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Switzerland wants to comment on Paragraph 24 of the document:<ul style="list-style-type: none">We would like to request the Secretariat to give information on the status of the proposed arrangements for an extraordinary session of the EFC for the election of the EFC Executive Committee members.Switzerland confirms its candidature for the EFC that was announced prior the fortieth session of the EFC.Thank you, Chair
The EU (received 25 Oct 20:02)	ERC/20/9	<ol style="list-style-type: none">The European Union and its 27 Member States welcome the report of the joint session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and in light of the importance of forests for achieving the SDGs and for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we appreciate the work undertaken by FAO on forest-related topics in the region.In this regard, we also welcome the progress made in implementing the Warsaw Integrated Programme of Work for 2018–2021 and the Commission’s decision on the timeline regarding its review. In particular, we welcome the establishment of a new Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests.We highlight the importance of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the need to further contribute to its implementation from a regional perspective. For this purpose we invite the EFC and COFFI to continue and enhance their cooperation inter alia through the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section with all relevant stakeholders, especially with forest-related organisations and processes in the region, while allowing sufficient space for specific FAO matters and avoiding duplications.As regards the regional priorities identified by EFC, we thank the joint meeting for its support regarding the ‘Stepping up European Union Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests’ and for highlighting the

		<p>chances provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade Ecosystem Restoration in achieving the SDGs and we align with the priorities designated by EFC.</p> <p>5. We particularly request FAO to incorporate as regional priorities into its Programme of Work and Budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) collaboration on integrated landscape approaches amongst various land management agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry and fisheries into relevant national planning processes, 2) addressing challenges faced by invasive species, inter alia, through support of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS), 3) identifying and operationalising opportunities provided by cross-sectoral collaboration and 4) finding nature-based solutions for climate change. <p>6. Finally, the EU and its 27 Member States echo the call of the joint meeting upon all countries and stakeholders of the region to actively support and participate in the XV World Forestry Congress as well as the 7th Mediterranean Forest Week, both to be held in 2021.</p>
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