



**10<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference  
2-3 June 2026, Stockholm, Sweden**

EUSTAFOR's Statement on the Stockholm Ministerial Declaration:  
*"FOREST EUROPE – Sustainable Forests for Resilient Societies"*

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(EUSTAFOR)

***Distinguished Chairperson, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

As President of the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), which represents 40 European State Forest Management Organisations across the continent, I would like to congratulate Sweden and His Excellency, Minister Peter Kullgren, on organising this prestigious conference.

EUSTAFOR welcomes the overarching theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Conference, which is "Sustainable Forest for Resilient Societies". I wish to underline that European forests, especially state forests, have been fulfilling multiple objectives and expectations set by other policy sectors and by society at large.

European forests remain one of the most important natural assets for climate change adaptation and resilience, carbon storage, water regulation, soil protection, and biodiversity conservation, as well as raw material supplies for the forest value chain, thus contributing to the resilience of rural and urban communities alike.

At the same time, Europe's forests are increasingly exposed to the impact of climate change. Across the continent, prolonged and more frequent droughts, extreme heat waves, storms, pests and disease outbreaks, and increasingly severe wildfires are placing unprecedented pressures on forest ecosystems, as well as on communities and industries that depend on them.

To fulfil all these roles and expectations entrusted to forests, they need to be actively and responsibly managed to make them resilient, healthy and growing natural resources. Forest management must be based on solid sustainability, multifunctionality and economic viability principles that are scientifically sound, supported by high-quality data and strong empirical experience of forest managers, and must be built upon a broad consensus among relevant actors at the landscape level.

To date, the State Forest Management Organisations, members of EUSTAFOR, have been managing large forest areas entrusted to them by the European Governments and societies based on the above principles embedded in national forest laws and operational regulations. The state forest organisations, supported by EUSTAFOR, consequently apply daily the principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), developed by the FOREST EUROPE process over three decades ago. We are ready to follow these paths also in the years to come, thus supporting the European governments in further refining and developing the SFM concept, its principles and tools, among others, the pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM and the State of Europe's Forest Report as a framework to monitor, assess and report on the European forests.

EUSTAFOR also supports all efforts by the European Governments and the European Commission to ensure and strengthen in the future the political guiding role and operational modalities of the FOREST EUROPE process. We are deeply convinced that this process should further develop as a high-level forest policy platform, be based on its well-established principles of inclusive and transparent co-operation and



serve as a main reference for national, European and international forest policymaking. EUSTAFOR, as an observer to FOREST EUROPE for the last 20 years, is committed to further supporting this process with the rich expertise of its members in the daily management of vast areas of European state forests.

***Distinguished Chairperson, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Thank you very much for your attention.