

# **EUSTAFOR Position Paper<sup>1</sup>**

## **In Connection to the Open Consultation on Biodiversity**

### **Continuously developed sustainable forest management (SFM) is central to biodiversity in our forests**

**Brussels, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**EUSTAFOR (European State Forest Organization) represents:**

- **28 State Forest Enterprises in Europe with 110 000 employees**
- **48 million hectares, or 30% of EU forest**
- **A sustainable annual increment of 155 million m<sup>3</sup>**
- **A sustainable annual harvest of 115 million m<sup>3</sup>**
- **The management of more than 10 million ha of protected forest**

European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) believes that sustainable forest management (SFM), and continuous work to improve its benefits, is central to the biodiversity of forests. We firmly believe that it is possible to produce wood for different purposes and benefits and, at the same time, reach biodiversity goals. We are therefore convinced the best results will only be achieved when biodiversity is incorporated into every day forest management.

In order to reach biodiversity goals, however, we feel there is also a need to further stimulate programs such as Natura 2000.

Furthermore, when considering any future biodiversity strategy, there is a need to establish the value for those ecosystem services that do not currently have a market, and to subsequently direct resources to these services. The rural development program of the future CAP is one important tool for achieving this.

From our point of view, there is still a lack of factual information about the state of biodiversity and its development. It is vital that the new biodiversity strategy contains well-defined goals and baselines, in order to facilitate their communication and follow-up.

Due to the inherent diversity of Europe, countries differ in the variety of their ecosystems, the types of forestry they practice, their individual potential, and so forth. This diversity is also reflected among EUSTAFOR members. Therefore, in order to share with you the wide variety of our concerns, we have asked our individual members to respond directly to the consultation.

We appreciate the process which has begun on developing a new biodiversity strategy as well as the opportunities this consultation and other measures provide us to discuss and jointly develop this important topic.

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<sup>1</sup> Any statement in this document is to be considered as a reflection of the best available professional expertise and does not necessarily reflect the political commitments of individual member states.