

Municipalities owning forest land are centers of democratically-based debates aimed at defining silvicultural practices which respect this forest heritage. They ensure a real stewardship for sustainable management taking into account environmental, economic, social and cultural issues. It is necessary to acknowledge all these dimensions for a forest management policy which remains close to the people of the communities.

Pierre Grandadam, president, mayor of Plaine (Great East Region, France)



How to become a member?

FECOF members are from the main EU countries. Each country manages its own national membership through local associations.

To join the FECOF, you can either choose a national membership or join as a special organisation. In this last case, please first contact the General Manager in France or Germany.

FECOF at European Forestry House

Rue de Luxembourg 66 1000 Brussels Belgium

Phone FR: +33 1 45 67 90 30 Phone GER: +49 6131 2398 165

info@fecof.eu www.fecof.eu



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Organisation

The FECOF is the representative organisation of municipalities and other local structures which own forest land in the countries of the European Union. With an area of 20 million hectares, municipal-owned forests represent the third largest forest ownership entity after the privately owned forests (approx. 100 million hectares) and the state owned forests (approx. 60 million hectares).

The FECOF was founded in 1990 against the backdrop of the increasing political influence of the European Union on the forest-based sector and on forest management practices.

Since the adoption of the European Charter of Local Authorities' Forests in 1992, the FECOF membership has been open to national or regional organisations sharing common values.

Objectives

The FECOF is the one specific organisation which represents municipalities and other local authorities concerned by European initiatives related to forest-based sector and forest management.

Thus the FECOF has 3 main goals:

- Developing memberships by improving the information available about municipal forests and their organisations in all the European regions.
- Promoting communication, exchange and cooperation among FECOF members.
- Acting in front of the European institutions which are part of the decision-making process:
 - The European Commission and especially the departments for agriculture, environment, climate, and energy.
- The Standing Forestry Committee composed of representatives in charge of forest policies from the member countries who advise the Commission.
- The Parliament and its Committee, the intergroups working in fields concerning forests and the forestry sector.
- European Committee of the Regions.



European Forestry House in Brussels