



European Federation of Municipal Forest Owners  
Fédération européenne des communes propriétaires de forêt  
Europäische Vereinigung gemeindlicher Waldbesitzervertretungen

## **FECOF basic conclusions on the future of forests in Europe: Threats, needs and contribution of forest owning municipalities**

CONSIDERING the vital importance of forest services for humanity and nature, recently stated by European institutions<sup>1</sup> and increasingly threaten by the impacts of climate change,

CONSIDERING the principles of sustainable forests management (SFM)<sup>2</sup> providing forest services for humanity and nature through a balanced and multifunctional approach, which FECOF clearly professes,

CONSIDERING a growing need of adapting forest ecosystems to climate change and thereby of scientific research and hands-on forest management actions,

CONSIDERING a dramatic economic situation of forestry, caused by the impact of forest dieback and the COVID-19 pandemic, which exceeds the economic capability of many forest owners throughout the EU,

CONSIDERING the necessary short- and long-term investments for reforestation and silvicultural treatment of presently devastated forests by storms, forest fires and insect calamities within the EU,

REMARKING a decreasing social awareness about the importance of forestry and sustainable forest management approaches,

REMARKING the contribution of forest owning municipalities to the exchange of forest stakeholders on side and thereby to general public awareness,

REMARKING the active participation of municipalities in educational measures, especially in the field of sustainable development and a caring treatment of nature and its resources,

REMARKING the democratic legitimacy of municipal representatives,

FECOF calls on the EU institutions to:

- Implement a rewarding system on forests ecosystem services provided by sustainable forest management in order to preserve these values in times of uncertainty through qualified adaptive forest management,
- Simplify the supportive instruments of the EU and its members states on forest dieback recovery and sustainable forest management in general in the context of the European state aid law and the information flows of involved players,
- Acknowledge and support the important role of local forest owning municipalities related to public engagement, conflict management and education in the field of sustainable forest management and forest conservation.

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<sup>1</sup> i.a. COM(2020) 380, ch. 2.2.4, S. 9;

<sup>2</sup> Provided in Forest Europe Helsinki Resolution H1 of 1993.