

IUFRO RG 9.06.00: Forest Law and Environmental Legislation

15th International Symposium

on

Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development

Tirana / Albania
May 15-17, 2013

IUFRO research group 9.06.00 has been operating world-wide over decades now to collect, evaluate and document, disseminate and also critically analyse developments in forest law and environmental legislation, with special emphasis on Central and Eastern European countries, not only, but in particular such with economies in transition. This within the unit's general and foremost objective, i. e. to foster exchange of information amongst researchers and practitioners active in the domain of forest law and environmental legislation, and to permanently review the state of the subject, thereby setting priorities concerning research and practice. A number of publications have been produced, proving how this unit has managed to meet its high standards (cf <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90600/publications/>). Thanks to the many lawyers amongst that group, it has also been highly successful in accomplishing the scientific transfer between traditional forestry communities and legal circles. The group's work has distinctively contributed to ease long-standing deadlocks, by connecting policy and law in research and in real life as well as in policy and law design and foremost in policy and law implementation.

Starting from 1998, the former IUFRO 6.13.00, now 9.06.00 has regularly been organising workshops to discuss legal aspects of European forest sustainable development in a non-formal and thus highly productive way. The 1st International Symposium on (then) "Experiences with new forest and environmental laws in European countries with economies in transition" was held in Ossiach, Austria in June, 1998. This meeting was followed by the 2nd symposium on the same topic, again in Ossiach, Austria in October 1999 (with presentation of its main results during the IUFRO World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2000). The 3rd International Symposium was held in Jundola, Bulgaria in June, 2001, followed by meetings in Jaunmokas, Latvia in August, 2002, then in Zidlochovice, Czech Republic (May 2003), and after that follow-up symposia took place in Poiana Brasov, Romania, in June 2004; in Zlatibor Mt., Serbia, in May 2005; in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2006; in Zikatar, Armenia, in June 2007; in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in May 2008; as well as in Zvolen (Slovakia) in May 2009, and in Lemesos (Cyprus) in May/June 2010. Ten years of intensive research work resulted in the allocation of two sessions on "Sustainable Forest Management through innovative forest laws and environmental legislation" to our group, during the IUFRO World Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in August 2010. In continuation of this highly successful work, the group met in Kaunas (Lithuania), in May 2011, as well as in Minsk (Republic of Belarus), in September 2012.

On the occasion of the 15th International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development" in Tirana, fifty-four researchers and practitioners originating from twenty-one different countries used that unique opportunity to get acquainted, involved and familiar with the new legal situation mainly in European forests, but also were profiting from the presence of participants from across the world, including Israel, Iran and Japan.

Longstanding group member Dr. Marius Lazdinis (EU Commission) created special interest by presenting and discussing the upcoming EU IPAD 2 program, where forestry is expected to be supported under EU pre-accession assistance again.

Not the least because of the number of group members involved in LPA (legally binding agreement on forests in Europe) negotiations, latest developments (especially in the context of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee's INC 4 negotiations) were broadly discussed.

The symposium was kindly hosted by CNVP (SNV's Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation, cf. <http://www.cnvp-eu.org/>) and supported by the host organisation, the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration and Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania, as well as the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by Haki Kola (CNVP Country Director) and Peter Kampen (CNVP Executive Director) and their respective staff at CNVP Tirana, as well as Peter Herbst (IUFRO 9.06.00).

Interested in IUFRO 9.06.00?

You are welcome to visit <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90600/> for more information, or directly contact the coordinator via email, <HP@net4you.at>.

Peter Herbst

Coordinator

IUFRO Forest Law and Environmental Legislation, 9.06.00