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1. **Host Country Information**

1.1 **Host country, region and city, and contact information**

The host country will be France with a main emphasis on the Region Ile-de-France where Paris is located. However, this candidacy is an expression of Europe with special links with the European Union, Forest Europe and the European Forest Institute (EFI). It is also an expression of French speaking countries that are disseminated all around the world and have special links with France.

The IUFRO Member Organization responsible for Congress coordination is ECOFOR. ECOFOR is a French public body and a federative platform in charge of research coordination in the field of forest ecosystems, both tropical and temperate. It is also a science policy interface especially between its twelve members that are research, monitoring, policy and management organisations.

1.2 **List of other IUFRO Member Organizations within the host country**

The IUFRO member organizations in France are eight, or seven in addition to ECOFOR. Most of them are members of ECOFOR (AgroParisTech, CIRAD, FCBA, INRA, IRSTEA, and ONF).

Only Lorraine University is not a member of ECOFOR although links also exist with it.

In addition, ECOFOR is a member of The European Forest Institute (EFI) that is a IUFRO member and has a regional office in France (EFIATLANTIC).

Some members of ECOFOR could also be members of IUFRO such as CNRS, IRD, CNPF, IGN or MNHN. A IUFRO World congress in Paris will be an opportunity for them to become members of IUFRO.
1.3 Submission date: 31 May 2017.

The congress is planned for the Summer 2024, between July and September. The final week will be decided after the attribution of the Olympic games. One potential week could be 7-13 July 2024 for the main part of the Congress.

1.4 Letters of invitation to the IUFRO President from governmental, national and, where applicable, sub-national sponsors, especially IUFRO Member Organizations within the host country

The French candidacy has been discussed between IUFRO members and inside ECOFOR’s Board that represents most of the forest-based sector community. It has been elaborated although the deadline for it was not adapted to the French context of political elections and changes of President, Government and Parliament.

The supports of this application are:

- ECOFOR as a membership organization;
- the city of Paris where most of the Congress will be held;
- the Region Île-de-France containing Paris and a green forest belt around Paris City and suburbs,
- the Office du tourisme et des congrès Paris,
- FCBA
- EFI
- AgroParisTech
- CIRAD
- CNPF
- IRSTEA
- INRA
- the Ministry of Agriculture
- the Ministry of Environment
- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- the European Commission
- ONF
- Lorraine University
- The French Academy of Agriculture
- ADEME
- AFD
- OECD
- UNESCO

Letters of invitation are attached in Appendices.

Following the recent presidential elections in France, the President Emmanuel Macron nominated a new government that is just installing. Letters of invitation from this new government will be sent as soon as the government will be installed.
1.5 Host country forests and forestry

French forests include those of metropolitan France on the one hand and those of the overseas territories on the other.

Metropolitan France belongs to four biogeographical regions (Atlantic, Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean). This diversity provides a richness of natural landscapes, tree species, forest ecosystems, silvicultural systems, goods and services, and their value chains. With 19 to 20 million hectares, the wooded lands of France are amongst the largest in EU. Forests themselves cover 16 million hectares, about 30% of the land; 95% of them are available for wood supply. They have been used intensively until the beginning of the XIXth century but since this transition period, their area has almost doubled. This extension is largely due to natural colonisation but also to afforestation programmes: With reforestation against forest degradation, about 13% of forest area has been planted.

French metropolitan forests are diverse, not only biogeographically but also institutionally. Over one fourth of these belong to about fifteen thousand public institutions, including the State. The other three quarters are private, mainly non industrial holdings distributed among 3.5 million owners; two thirds of these private owners are individual persons or households and more than fifty percent of them are retired. In this context, public policies play an important role in stimulating sustainable forest management through regulations, incentives and technical assistance.

The growing stock of French metropolitan forests is nearing 2.5 billion cubic meters ($m^3$) of solid wood or about 160 $m^3$/ha. It is rapidly increasing due to the fact that half of the current net increment is not removed but capitalized. As a consequence, the net forest carbon stocks and sink are large. A major challenge of the French policy is thus to increase the harvest of roundwood and, in the same time, to preserve the overall carbon balance of the forest-based sector.
Besides its European part, France comprises also overseas territories with additional forest areas of more than 9 million hectares\(^1\). The most remarkable of them is French Guiana with 8 million hectares of tropical rainforest and approximately the same growing stock as Metropolitan French forests\(^2\). Among these overseas territory, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon is particular because of its boreal situation close to Canada.

The first natural reserve in the World has been created in France in Fontainebleau forest 70 km South of Paris (1853). It was there that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was founded in 1948, and is now the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organization.

Climate change and increasing risks are major concerns for French forests and their sustainable management, Forest fires are responsible for large damages in the Southern regions but are rather under control to the exception of large drought conditions. Destructive wind storms have hit France several times in the last two decades. The levels of insect populations and deseases are supposed to increase in the future. National forest R&D network and long term research programmes have been initiated to advance knowledge and provide the scientific basis for developing forest adaptation measures towards climate change and other risks.

Forest industries represent a significant sector in France: with many different activities, development opportunities, and challenges in order to compete with other countries and materials on national and international markets. The industrial situation is very different from one region to another. For example in Central regions, privately owned broadleaved forests are presently harvested at a low rate but the climate and energy perspectives offer new market opportunities and perspectives also for timber. Conversely, the North-East and South-West regions of France have a dynamic industrial structure, such as Gascony that is home for the largest planted forest in Europe and where the forest-based sector represents major economic activities.

In France, the forest policy is the oldest public policy. The existence of a forest administration was confirmed by the royal ordinance (decree) of 1291. In 1346, another royal ordinance stated that forests and other woodlands should be monitored, managed and harvested so that they “can remain sustainably in good condition in the long term.” Silviculture developed much during the XVIII\(^{th}\) and XIX\(^{th}\) centuries, on the basis of thinnings and natural regeneration. More specific forest systems were also developed for protection purposes and soil conservation such as mountain slopes and sand dune forests along the Atlantic Ocean. Some of those

\(^1\) Mayotte 5 000 ha, Réunion 84 000 ha, Wallis et Futuna 6 000 ha, Nouvelle Calédonie 717 000 ha, Polynésie française 105 000 ha, Guadeloupe 80 000 ha, Martinique 47 000 ha, Guyane 8 082 000 ha, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon 3 000 ha (from « Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 », FAO).

\(^2\) 2,8 billion m\(^3\) or 350 m\(^3\)/ha.
silvicultural models were exported all around the World in French speaking countries but also in different European countries, in India, the United States...

In summary, forests and forestry are characterized in France by a great diversity of tree species and ecological conditions (from temperate to tropical), ownership status (public and private), forest types and uses (industrial, social...), management regimes (from short rotation coppice to protected areas), regulations and public policies, and socio-economic actors. Forest research approaches are therefore multiple amongst French research institutes and universities involved in scientific fields related to forests and forestry. GIP ECOFOR provides overall R&D coordination at national level between the organisations involved in forest research, and also a science/policy interface, while operational, industrial and technological research and innovation are coordinated by technical centres such as FCBA or forest industry clusters. French research organisations are also very active nationally and internationally in coordinating or supporting forest-related networks, research infrastructures and collaborative projects. France hosts one EFI (European Forest Institute) regional office in Bordeaux (EFI ATLANTIC) and takes part in two other ones (EFICENT and EFIMED). This is the reflection of its diversity.

1.6 Host country introduction

Metropolitan France is one of the oldest countries in the World with a very ancient history of human occupation. It is fairly well defined by the Channel in the North-West, the Atlantic Ocean in the West, the Pyrenees in the South-West, the Mediterranean Sea in the South-East (including Corsica), the Alps, the Jura and the Rhine in the East. Only the northeastern limits relie less on natural boundaries. France is a democratic republic with elected president and parliament. It is a founding member of the European Union (EU). It is included in the Schengen Area of 26 European countries covering 400 million people: there are currently no internal border controls but external border controls for travellers entering and leaving the area, and common visas. It is a part of the Euro-zone that also facilitates exchanges between other member countries. More globally, France is a member of the Union for the Mediterranean that includes EU and other countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Indeed, it is obviously a member of the United Nations organization and one of the five permanent members of its Security Council.

Metropolitan France is classified amongst the top five countries of the World for congress organisations and the top country for tourism thanks to dense and modern communication and transportation facilities.

French culture is famous on a scientific point of view, for its its high level of creativity inspired by beautiful natural landscapes and architecture, for its “art de vivre” and gastronomy, and for Tourism, Agriculture, Agro-industry, Aeronautics, Cosmetics and Fashion sectors are all important pillars of French economy.

Although France has been painfully struck by terrorism, which can strike as much any country, it has been able to react and control this scourge. It has organised also very big events such as the Paris conference on climate (2015, COP21) and the UEFA football championship (2016). It will also very probably be chosen to welcome the Olympic games in Paris in 2024 or
2028. Globally, metropolitan France can be considered as a safe country, without major issues concerning human health (no vaccinations required), and one of the most welcoming environments in the World with very mild climate.

Paris has retained a top spot in the International Congress and Convention Association’s (ICCA) table showing the number of association meetings hosted by cities around the world in 2016. The city welcomed 1,118 association meetings of which 196 of them have met the ICCA criteria. With 196 international congresses accounted by the association, Paris outstrips Vienna (186) and Barcelona (181).

Moreover, the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau is leading several analyses regarding congresses activities in the City and highlighted that attendance of international congresses is between 10 and 30% higher if the congress is held in Paris.
1.7 Organizational Plan

The current proposal has been coordinated at national level by GIP ECOFOR with supports of its members and French IUFRO member organizations. It has been jointly prepared by ECOFOR, Viparis (Palais des Congrès de Paris), and the Paris “Office du Tourisme et des Congrès” around a vision emphasizing “Forests for Resilient Landscapes and Societies”. It is organized around two major challenges for forestry in the XXIst century: adaptation to rapidly changing climate and provision of ecosystem services to support resilient landscapes and viable economies. In this context, the role of research and development is to understand the complexity of forest-based ecological and social systems, to evaluate trade-offs between different ecosystem services, to deal with uncertainty and risks, and to integrate changes in strategies.

FORESTS FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AND SOCIETIES

The vision of the French candidacy for the organization of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress

The world population is growing strongly. This is even more the case for people expectations in terms of living environment, ecological conditions, and economic and social welfare. This has resulted in two major types of consequences for forests, which cover nearly one-third of the land area of the planet and, in the same way, of metropolitan France:

- they are attracting increasing interest as renewable resources, complex ecosystems, remarkable landscapes and, more generally, as the basis for a whole range of ecosystem services and heritage features;
- they are subject to increasingly serious risks, linked in particular to changes in land use, habitat degradation, introduction of invasive species, air pollution and climate change.

Thus, forest protection and management mobilize practitioners and researchers to solve a difficult equation and, above all, to ensure the resilience of the territories considered in terms of their landscapes as well as their human societies.

France, a primordial European actor, has much to say on this major topic:

- It benefits from a strong bioclimatic variability, all the more with its ultramarine territories which place it at the head of the European countries for its forest biomass and confer an exceptional biodiversity to it;
- It is located in Europe at the crossroads between northern and southern countries;
- It is rich in its close contacts with many countries of the world, which are organized on the basis of the Francophonie and are largely declined at the silvicultural level;
- It builds on the unprecedented global success of the Climate Conference held in Paris at the end of 2015, that culminated in the Paris Agreement and deals with a fundamental issue for forestry;
- It has just published its national forest and wood program 2016-2026, with a synthesis in English, that follows a strategy for the wood sector (CSF Bois) and is followed by a research and innovation plan for 2025 and the forest-based sector (PI/2025); these different strategies will be ready for an evaluation in 2024;
- In 1995, it was the first country in Europe to publish sustainable forest management indicators, which have since been updated every five years, with the latest edition in 2015, also available in English;
- It has 200 years of high-level forestry education to be celebrated in 2024;
- It participates actively in IUFRO, the creation of which it prepared in 1891 in Badenweiler, and to which eight different French organizations are affiliated (AgroParisTech, Cirad, FCBA, Gip Ecofor, Inra, Istea, ONF, and University of Lorraine), and EFI which has a regional office in France.

A IUFRO World Congress in France and Europe is expected to:

- encourage European researchers to join IUFRO networks;
- stimulate research by accelerating the flow of ideas throughout the world and bringing it into line with the needs of society;
- facilitate contacts between researchers and managers on the basis of an overall vision of forestry that promotes interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in science;
- give visibility to the forest-based sector sector, both abroad and in France, by enabling it to highlight its richness, to explain its specificities, to appear as a laboratory for sustainable development and for the resilience of socio-ecosystems.
The organizational structure will be based on: (1) a national Congress Organising Committee (COC) coordinated by ECOFOR and including French IUFRO members and sponsors that will supervise overall progress in the preparation and funding of the congress; the COC will report regularly to IUFRO headquarters. and (2) a Congress Management Team (CMT) coordinated by ECOFOR and responsible of congress preparation and management, in link with a professional congress organizer (PCO) and the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) The congress management team will regularly report to the COC.

During preparation of the congress, ECOFOR, its members and French IUFRO members will provide dedicated staff and resources, organize communication, support in-congress professional tours, pre-congress events, post-congress tours, and facilitate student participation and support (from IFSA and French colleges and universities).

2. Financial Plan

2.1 Indicative financial plan

An estimation of Congress total expenditure is provided on the basis of the needs evaluated from the Salt Lake City XXIVth IUFRO World Congress (2014) but for 3 500 delegates among which about 500 invited (VIP, volunteers, sponsors). They will have to be re-estimated in the future from more detailed information. They are given VAT excluded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES OF EXPENSES</th>
<th>BUDGET (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue: spaces and compulsory services. The budget is guaranteed at 2024 prices and take into account a special 30% discount</td>
<td>402 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: optional services (stage, sound, light, video, technicians, interpretation, receivers, screens, microphones...). At 2017 prices.</td>
<td>320 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Congress Organiser (PCO): coordination, management of calls (sessions, oral and poster contributions), registration, invited people, partners, communication strategy</td>
<td>208 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, website, consumables, documents, data, goodies</td>
<td>120 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited speakers and committees</td>
<td>80 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptions (opening ceremony, gala event, presidential dinner...)</td>
<td>400 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-congress tours</td>
<td>100 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-congress breaks</td>
<td>160 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientist assistance programme</td>
<td>200 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to IUFRO</td>
<td>160 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous expenses and cautionary provisions</td>
<td>100 000 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL costs for 4 000 participants</td>
<td>2 250 000 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Registration fees

Registration fees are divided in several categories as this generally the case and distinguish IUFRO members from non IUFRO members, developed countries from other countries (developing or in transition), early bird versus regular registration, students, accompanying persons, exhibitors from other delegates, full versus daily registration. The total fees amount to 1 600 000 €. These fees are VAT excluded but include 10% for IUFRO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of delegate</th>
<th>Unit fee (€)</th>
<th>Expected number</th>
<th>Fees (1 000 €)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IUFRO members of developed countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non IUFRO members of developed countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUFRO members of other countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non IUFRO members of other countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibitors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early bird for non profit organizations</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular for non profit or early bird standard</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular for standard exhibitor</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily registration on site</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited people and volunteers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3500</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1 600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Level of financial support for the Congress Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) and indicate respective funding sources

The Scientific Assistance Programme (SAP) will be an important component of the congress to enhance involvement of developing countries. Specific criteria will apply for the selection of scientists such as IUFRO involvement, scientific achievements, accepted abstract to the congress... It will be mainly cofunded by French agencies supporting cooperation with developing countries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD (French Development Agency, and FFEM (French Fund for World Environment) with complementary funding from various sponsors. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is likely to support this SAP programme and the IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC).

2.4 A summary of the details concerning finances as stated in the letter of invitation to IUFRO and other governmental commitments *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding sources</th>
<th>Income (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>1 600 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public subsidies: ECOFOR and other French IUFRO member organizations, Ministries, local public bodies, public agencies (ADEME, AFD, FFEM), EU funding</td>
<td>350 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>300 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 250 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 Information on potential sponsors for the Congress

Potential sponsors of the congress are FBF, CODIFAB and FBIE, clusters...
3. Host City Information

3.1 Location

Connected to the World, Paris guarantees an optimal accessibility thanks to its consistently reliable network of transport infrastructures (air, rail and road).

**How to get to the city?**

- **By air**
  
  Paris is mainland Europe’s largest air transport hub with:
  - 2 international airports, Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly
  - 14,000 flights a week
  - Both international airports operate services to and from 697 cities
  - 95.4 million of passengers arrived in Paris by air transport in 2015
  - 78 cities in more than 30 countries are linked to Paris by low-cost airline companies

**New connexion (airports – city center) for IUFRO 2024:**

- 20 minutes by direct high speed train to/from Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport (north of Paris) expected in 2023.
- 15 minutes by automatic metro line 14 to/from Orly Airport (south of Paris) expected in 2024.
By train

Paris’s high-speed rail services at the heart of Europe:
- 6 train stations in the city + 1 station in Disneyland Paris
- Linked to 145 French destinations and 20 European cities
- 425 high-speed trains a day
- 6,200 trains travelling daily on the 3.900 km Paris Region network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Length of journey</th>
<th>Number of direct trains per day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>1hr20</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>2hrs15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg (Luxembourg)</td>
<td>2hrs05</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strasbourg (France)</td>
<td>2hrs20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam (Netherlands)</td>
<td>3hrs15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basel (Switzerland)</td>
<td>3hrs05</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologne (Germany)</td>
<td>3hrs15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurt (Germany)</td>
<td>3hrs50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>3hrs05</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona (Spain)</td>
<td>6hrs25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the heart of the European rail network, Paris can be reached by means of an excellent rail network, which takes travellers to one of the six railway stations situated right in the heart of the city and offering smooth connections with the public transport network.

Thanks to the high-speed trains, Paris is the European crossroads for rail travel: enjoy your first step in one of the renovated train stations, transformed into very welcoming areas with shops and Paris information desks (Gare du Nord, Gare de l’Est and Gare de Lyon)!

Moreover, the high-speed train is a particularly ecological mode of transport: it uses four times less energy than air transportation and half that of road transport. The future outlook for the high-speed train and the European cities that it connects is therefore very bright.
3.2 Hotel Accommodation

Paris has the world’s biggest hotel capacity with more than 81,500 rooms in the 105 km² of the inner Paris area and over 150,000 rooms in the Paris Region. Paris’s accommodation offer includes a wide range of hotels for every taste and every budget.

12,000 of these hotel rooms are at close proximity of the Palais des Congrès de Paris. For the detailed map of the hotels around the convention centre, please follow the link: [http://iufro.b-network.com/](http://iufro.b-network.com/)

Overview of the Paris Region accommodation offer

### HOTELS AND ROOMS IN PARIS REGION IN 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of hotels</th>
<th>Number of rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5*</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4*</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>44,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3*</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>55,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2*</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>24,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1*</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>7,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other accommodation (hotels which are awaiting classification, youth accommodations, aparthotels…)</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>14,651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 2,431 153,138

Low budget accommodation

Paris Region is willing to offer low budget accommodation, ideally located within the city centre and easily accessible. Paris and its Inner suburbs have more than 9,600 beds.

### LOW BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Number of beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth hostels</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostels</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Campus</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>53</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,014</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let’s mention the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris (international campus) available for obvious reasons in summer time. Located on a wooded park of 34 hectares in Southern Paris, the campus represents the largest concentration of residence halls in the whole region: 5,600 beds in 38 residences.

In addition, the CISPs - for ‘Centres Internationaux de Séjours de Paris’ - Kellerman and Maurice-Ravel, who together provide more than 600 beds distributed in two economic but quality accommodation centres situated in the students areas of Paris. Opened in 1968 in the heart of Paris, the FIAP Jean Monnet is committed to receiving visitors from around the world in 200 rooms.

Finally, responding to a growing demand for youth accommodation in the heart of the city, Generator recently opened into the 10th arrondissement with has a 950-bed hostel. With hip urban design, it is a mix between a youth hostel and with private rooms opening onto a terrace and shared rooms with en-suite bathrooms. The philosophy of Generator is to enable young people to discover and ‘experience’ Paris at an affordable price with comfortable standards.
Housing management service:

In partnership with B-network, VIPARIS can provide you with a one-stop and customized solution including:

- IUFRO’s need analysis: number of rooms, category distribution, peak nights, comps
- Definition of the best “IUFRO hotel offer” depending on your requirements and geographic perimeter
- Dedicated website for IUFRO delegates
- Contact with the concerned hotels, negotiation of the allotment, price and general sales conditions
- Hotel commission for the association

We will pre-book allotment among a selection of hotels according to your requirements and negotiate price and conditions.

Guarantee terms and conditions for accommodation at application stage:

- acceptable hotel rates
- no minimum stay applied
- individual & group booking terms conditions
- agency commission
- complimentary rooms for organizers

This service will be free of charge and without any obligation and enhances the appeal of Paris as a destination. Our aim is to facilitate associations to organize their meeting in Paris and assist them prior to and during the event.

*Please refer to appendices - IUFRO - Accommodation*
3.3 Local amenities for a comfortable visit

The City of Paris is delighted to offer to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations - IUFRO the rental fees of the impressive City Hall reception rooms* for hosting a memorable event during your congress in 2024. Located straight in the heart of Paris, the City Hall welcomes prestigious receptions and is highly significant monument for all the Parisians. The building houses the offices of the Mayor and city council of Paris.

*Subject to availability and technical fees and capacity restriction (capacity max.: 1,200 guests in cocktail format).

We also provide:

- a welcome message (letter or speech)
- assistance for organizing public events for sensibilizing Parisians (the association's mission has to be among the City priorities)
- marketing tools with beautiful pictures of Paris thanks to our photo library gathering over 3,000 free rights to download photos within high resolution
- banners for creating hyperlink between the congress website and the Paris visitors bureau
- assistance for using the 180 city billboards to announce the congress and via the congress online agenda (see picture)
- Maps and cityguides for all the delegates
- Assistance for ordering transportation congress card for IUFRO delegates:

  The congress card is a single travel card with unlimited travel in the city during several days (2 to 7 days). The card can be printed with logo in colors and the name of the congress. Unused business travel cards are refunded on return (see sales terms and conditions). The cost of additional options represents around 10% of the global amount (excl. VAT).

  Cost including 10% VAT (from july 2016 to july 2017 – cost are reviewed each year on july):
  - 5-day card: 27,85€ (for Paris city center)
  - 7-day card: 36,80€ (for Paris city center)

  Reminder! Single ticket costs 1,90€

  Support: Magnetic ticket with a plastic holder, example:
4. Congress Venue

4.1 Narrative that describes specific location of the Congress centre

Like a Parisian!

The IUFRO World Congress at the Palais des Congrès de Paris will offer your delegates the opportunity to experience Paris like a Parisian.

This venue is located in the city center,
- 10-minutes walk from the Champs Elysées and the Arc de Triomphe,
- 40-minutes from the two international airports CDG and Orly
- Metro station inside the building: the line 1 which crosses Paris from East to West and connects the Palais des Congrès to all major Parisian locations in less than 30-minutes

During the day, IUFRO delegates will have an easy access to the congress center.
During the evening after the congress, they will easily enjoy Parisian bistro, bars, boutiques, the Eiffel Tower. A metro ride in Paris is never more than 30 minutes, so a citywide event like yours has every hotel in the city at its doorstep.
An unforgettable experience for your delegates, who will really take advantage of everything the city of Paris has to offer!
Optimal Layout Proposal:

The congress layout we propose for 2024 IUFRO World Congress has the following advantages:

- **Easy delegates flow**: Easy connection between exhibition space and conference rooms, the exhibition area will be the heart of your congress.
- **Compact layout**: Concentrated on one floor, no long walk for the delegates, or dead-end for the exhibitors.
- **Ideal location for the exhibition**: In front of the session rooms.
- **Flexible and high-quality conference rooms**: All rooms are soundproofed and can be adapted to your requirements. Every space is accessible for disabled persons.

The Palais des Congrès de Paris will propose to IUFRO delegates unique features:

- **An extra-large modular congress center**: Conference rooms and exhibition areas will be on the same floor.
- **Excellent visibility for your congress at the Palais des Congrès de Paris**: In the heart of this fast-evolving Parisian district.
- **A concentration of different means of transportation**: A dedicated Metro station, buses, vélib stations, taxis and Air France shuttles at the bottom of the congress center direct to CDG airport.
- **Years of experience**: The Palais des Congrès de Paris is well known to the professional events, and hosts most of the international European congresses existing in the world.
- **On-site proximity of 2,000 hotel rooms**: Starwood Le Méridien Etoile Hotel, Hyatt Regency Hotel.

4.3 Narrative that describes facilities (seats, rooms arrangements, AV equipment...)

Spaces proposed for the IUFRO World Congress:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed space</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Auditorium</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall maillot</td>
<td>Exhibition / Registration / Catering / Posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphi Bleu, room Maillot, Amphi Bordeaux, Amphi Havane</td>
<td>Sub Plenaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office 201</td>
<td>IUFRO Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office 202/203</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office 204</td>
<td>IUFRO President / Secretariat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 Narrative that describes facilities for exhibits

Please refer to appendices

See Hall Maillot in the Convention Center (Palais des Congrès de Paris)

4.5 Narrative that describes facilities for special events

In addition to the Convention Center (Palais des Congrès de Paris), see on line the two other facilities: Le Pavillon d’Armenonville and Les Pavillons de Bercy
5. Congress Excursions

5.1 Social Programme and Tours

Around Paris: Green and peaceful atmosphere for your excursions

- **Forest of Fontainebleau: 1 hour from Paris**
  A favourite refuge of Parisians: 1600 km of roads and forest paths are reserved for pedestrians. You will appreciate the multiple landscapes offered by the forest: romantic clearings, foggy marsh lands, rocky cliffs, pine trees and a wild biological reserve.

- **Forest of Versailles / Green belt: 40 minutes from Paris**
  Versailles has the famous and magnificent castle... but it also has a significant heritage in plant life which cannot be "reduced" to the 800 hectares of the palace park... In fact, the communal area also includes 12 hectares of squares, gardens and parks. A project to develop these forested and environmental areas is underway: by 2013, there will be a "green belt" allowing a complete tour of the city by bicycle, on horseback, or by foot, for the hardiest, without ever leaving forests or tree-lined paths. For 18 km of walking or riding...

- **Forest of Compiègne: 1 hour from Paris**
  The forest of Compiègne is famous for its picturesque natural attractions, with its elegant arrays of oak and beech trees projecting a "noble and ordered beauty". Plants, trees, animals, streams, ponds... are all elements constituting the forest ecosystem. Thanks to its rich ecosystem, the forest of Compiègne is an absolute example of this biodiversity that foresters manage and try to maintain daily to transmit to future generations.

- **Forest of Orléans: 1h30min from Paris**
  Orléans Forest covers a surface area of about 50,000 hectares, 35,000 hectares of which are owned by the state making it the largest state-owned forest in mainland France. It is crossed by Orléans Canal, which is supplied by several lakes and is populated by oaks and Scots pines, which provide a home to two emblematic species: the Stag and the Osprey. The forest offers hikers and hunting enthusiast's wide-open spaces of freedom and discovery.
The Paris Convention Bureau would be pleased to put you in contact with our **Destination Management Companies (DMCs)** members. Those companies will be a precious help and a time saver for you by organizing **tailor-made trip, tours or an excursion**, for example:

- Walking trails
- Bike tours
- climbing walls
- horseback riding
- Hot-air ballooning tours
- Segway Mobilboard activity
- Treasure hunting…

Of course there are many monuments and museum in Paris and all around that will be able to welcome accompanying persons during the congress and delegate before or after the congress.

### 5.2. In-congress tours

In-congress tours will allow to go to the forest belt around Paris for very different themes and for example :

- Hunting and silviculture in Rambouillet or in Sologne
- Biological reserve in Fontainebleau
- Recreation everywhere including Paris
- Wooden construction in the proximity of Paris
- Silviculture of broadleaved trees (oak, chestnut, precious trees...) everywhere
- Plantation forestry (in Orleans)
- Forest Landscape in Fontainebleau
- Forest and water in Sologne
- Forest inventory
- Bioenergy

With fast train, it will be possible to visit

- the red zone in forests struck by wars
- forest crises due to climate change (Vierzon)

Post-Congress tours will be organised in :

- mountains (Jura with France and Switzerland, Alpes with Switzerland, Italy and France)
- Landes de Gascogne (plantation forestry and wind damages, forest industry)
- Mediterranean area.

Other potential sites could be in UK, Belgium and Germany.
Appendices

Support letter of:

- Gip Ecofor
- The Chief Executive officer of FCBA
- The President of The Ile-de-France Regional Council
- The Mayor of Paris
- The Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau
- The Director of the European Forest Institute (EFI)
Professor Michael J. Wingfield  
President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations  
IUFRO Headquarters - Secretariat  
Marxergasse 2  
A-1030 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Subject: Support letter to a French application for the organization of the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in Paris

Mr. President,

The French forest scientific community is very involved in the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, from the origin. It was present on 18 September 1891 in Badenweiler, with two professors from the forest faculty of Nancy who braved diplomatic tensions between France and Germany to prepare the future creation of IUFRO with their German, Austrian and Swiss colleagues.

Unlike other IUFRO founding members, France has hosted the IUFRO World Congress only once, in 1932, in Nancy. However, it has many assets to emphasize, as presented in the attached vision elaborated with this candidacy that the French forest scientific community decided to present and strongly support for the organization of the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in 2024 and in Paris. It has been discussed among French IUFRO members and twice inside ECOFOR’s Board.

On this basis and on behalf of the French forest scientific community, I would like to invite you to choose France for this XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in 2024. You will appreciate the great diversity of our forests and forestry, the high level of our scientific approaches, the pleasant climate of France and our nice way of life. This organization will also be a good opportunity for the French forest-based sector to make more visible its importance, needs and potential for the future. Finally, we have clearly in mind that the dimension of this application is much beyond France and Europe: it concerns the whole Planet.

Yours sincerely,

the Director of ECOFOR

Jean-Luc Peyron
FORESTS FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AND SOCIETIES
The vision of the French candidacy for the organization of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress

The world population is growing strongly. This is even more the case for people expectations in terms of living environment, ecological conditions, and economic and social welfare. This has resulted in two major types of consequences for forests, which cover nearly one-third of the land area of the planet and, in the same way, of metropolitan France:

- they are attracting increasing interest as renewable resources, complex ecosystems, remarkable landscapes and, more generally, as the basis for a whole range of ecosystem services and heritage features;
- they are subject to increasingly serious risks, linked in particular to changes in land use, habitat degradation, introduction of invasive species, air pollution and climate change.

Thus, forest protection and management mobilize practitioners and researchers to solve a difficult equation and, above all, to ensure the resilience of the territories considered in terms of their landscapes as well as their human societies.

France, a primordial European actor, has much to say on this major topic:

- it benefits from a strong bioclimatic variability, all the more with its ultramarine territories which place it at the head of the European countries for its forest biomass and confer an exceptional biodiversity to it;
- it is located in Europe at the crossroads between northern and southern countries;
- it is rich in its close contacts with many countries of the world, which are organized on the basis of the Francophony and are largely declined at the silvicultural level;
- it builds on the unprecedented global success of the Climate Conference held in Paris at the end of 2015, that culminated in the Paris Agreement and deals with a fundamental issue for forestry;
- it has just published its national forest and wood program 2016-2026, with a synthesis in English, that follows a strategy for the wood sector (CSF Bois) and is followed by a research and innovation plan for 2025 and the forest-based sector (PRI2025); these different strategies will be ready for an evaluation in 2024;
- in 1995, it was the first country in Europe to publish sustainable forest management indicators, which have since been updated every five years, with the latest edition in 2015, also available in English;
- It has 200 years of high-level forestry education to be celebrated in 2024;
- it participates actively in IUFRO, the creation of which it prepared in 1891 in Badenweiler, and to which eight different French organizations are affiliated (AgroParisTech, Cirad, FCBA, Gip Ecofor, Inra, Irstea, ONF, and University of Lorraine), and EFI which has a regional office in France.

A IUFRO World Congress in France and Europe is expected to:

- encourage European researchers to join IUFRO networks;
- stimulate research by accelerating the flow of ideas throughout the world and bringing it into line with the needs of society;
- facilitate contacts between researchers and managers on the basis of an overall vision of forestry that promotes interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in science;
- give visibility to the forest-based sector sector, both abroad and in France, by enabling it to highlight its richness, to explain its specificities, to appear as a laboratory for sustainable development and for the resilience of socio-ecosystems.
Champs sur Marne, le 31 mai 2017

Professor Michael J. Wingfield
President
International Union of Forest Research Organizations
IUFRO Headquarters - Secretariat
Marxergasse 2
A-1030 Vienna, AUSTRIA

N. Réf. : 2017-41

Objet : Letter of support to the French application for organizing and hosting the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in 2024 and Paris, France

Mr. President,

The Technology Institute FCBA is a French private research and innovation organization with more than 350 employees. It is active in research, development, innovation, standardization, certification, technical assistance, consultancy, expertise, testing, training and information of public and private forest-based and furniture stakeholders. It covers a wide range of clients within the French forest-based sector (e.g. forest management companies, nurseries, forest owners, suppliers, wood products, sawmills, panel and board industries, cooperage, construction, furniture from all materials, pulp and paper, and many more). FCBA has been an active member of IUFRO for a long time.

I would like to give emphasis to the application of France, presented by ECOFOL, to organize and host the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in Paris. As a key partner within the network of the whole French forest-based research and innovation community, my institute will contribute to the successful organization of this prestigious event.

France is rich of its large forests, both in its metropolitan part and overseas. Its forestry value-chain encompasses climatic, functional and silvicultural diversity. It is also rich of centuries of sustainable forest management and thus of many innovations that have been imposed by environmental and socio-economic changes. It is additionally rich of its links with many countries in Europe and the World that make it a strong partner at the international level.

Paris is a unique city surrounded by a forest belt, tightly connected with the whole World, well known for the French quality of life and now also recognized for the recent agreement that was signed at the end of the Climate conference in December 2015. This unprecedented conference, also important for forestry, testifies to Paris capacity to host major events as will be the IUFRO World Congress. Paris represents not only France but also Europe, which it has largely contributed to structuring. It also hosts international bodies such as UNESCO and the OECD.
France is also experiencing new strategies very important for the forest-based sector. Among them there is an ambitious research and innovation plan for 2025 in the development of which FCBA has chaired with three other agencies mandated by five ministries.

On behalf of FCBA, I express my full support to the French initiative to apply for the organization of the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress, which is led by ECOFOR around a vision aiming at “Forests for resilient landscapes and societies”. I would like to invite you to choose Europe, France and Paris for becoming the host of the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress in 2024.

Yours faithfully,

[signature]

Georges-Henri FLORENTIN
Chief executive officer of FCBA
Monsieur le Président,

Le groupement d'intérêt public ECOFOR est candidat pour accueillir à Paris le Congrès de l'Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières en 2024. Ce congrès, qui se tient tous les cinq ans, réunit environ 4 000 spécialistes du monde entier et constitue un moment unique pour promouvoir la coopération internationale en matière de recherche forestière. Cet événement est aussi un puissant vecteur de sensibilisation autour des enjeux écologiques, économiques et sociaux liés à la forêt.

Je tiens, par la présente lettre, à apporter le soutien de la région Ile-de-France à cette démarche. Une manifestation de cette envergure, et autour d'un sujet aussi essentiel, mobilisera l'ensemble des pouvoirs publics alors même que la France n'a pas accueilli ce congrès depuis 1932.

Ce choix de Paris et de l'Ile-de-France serait naturel. En effet, contrairement aux idées reçues, l'Ile-de-France est boisée sur près du quart de sa superficie, soit juste en dessous de la moyenne nationale, ce qui est considérable pour une région à très forte concentration urbaine. De plus, l'Ile-de-France est un pôle de recherche majeur qui concentre 40% des dépenses de recherche et développement du pays. Enfin, Paris a la crédibilité pour accueillir ce congrès car Paris est déjà le siège de nombreuses organisations internationales : UNESCO, OCDE, OIF, Chambre de commerce internationale, Organisation mondiale de la santé animale.

L'Ile-de-France est aussi la première destination mondiale pour le tourisme événementiel avec près de 400 salons professionnels et 1000 congrès organisés chaque année accueillant quelques 12 millions de visiteurs. Avec un quart de l'offre hôtelière nationale et deux tiers des hôtels 3 étoiles français, l'Ile-de-France répond très largement aux exigences qualitatives et quantitatives des grands événements internationaux.

La Région s'investit fortement afin d'améliorer la qualité de l'accueil. Nous avons par exemple développé le « Pack Accueil Salons et Congrès » qui bénéficient aux organisateurs de salons et de congrès avec la mise en place de dispositifs d’accueil renforcés aux aéroports et dans les gares, et de transports gratuits pour les congressistes.
En choisissant l’Île-de-France, vous bénéficierez également d’une connectivité incomparable. 3 aéroports internationaux et 7 gares TGV relient Paris aux principales métropoles européennes en moins de 3 heures. Notre réseau de transports, qui est déjà le plus dense du monde, sera considérablement amélioré d’ici 2024 grâce aux investissements mobilisés par l’État et la Région. Par exemple, la ligne Charles-de-Gaulle Express reliera l’aéroport de Roissy au centre de Paris en seulement 20 minutes.

Avec 2 431 hôtels (soit un quart de l’offre hôtelière nationale) dont 66% avec plus de 3 étoiles et 109 restaurants étoilés, l’Île-de-France répondra sans difficulté aux besoins du Congrès en termes d’accueil des visiteurs et des exposants.

Vous pouvez compter sur l’engagement de l’ensemble des professionnels franciliens du tourisme et des équipes du Comité Régional du Tourisme qui, à vos côtés, sauront recevoir vos congressistes en toute convivialité afin d’en faire un immense succès.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à l’assurance de ma très haute considération.

[Signature]

Valérie PÉCRESSE

Conseil régional
33, rue Barbelet-de-Jour – 75355 Paris cedex 07 SP
Tél. : 01 53 65 53 85 – Fax : 01 53 65 53 80
www.ileddefrance.fr

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Paris, 3 AVR. 2017

Dear Chairman,

Paris is being considered to host the “International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress – IUFRO in 2024”. I know that I am speaking for all Parisians in expressing the pleasure that our city would take in hosting this event.

Paris is today’s world leader for trade shows, conferences, and congresses. This ranking stands as a testimony to our city’s reputation, entrepreneurial spirit, and ability to create and innovate. Each year we receive over 30 million visitors, attracted by this unique city and its famous lifestyle.

Our city can boast of a geographical location facilitating easy access, efficient public transport, state-of-the-art equipment, and high-quality conference venues and accommodations.

I can assure you that our city will make available, and adapt to your special needs, all of the infrastructure necessary to ensure the success of the “IUFRO World Congress”. Our Paris Convention Bureau, will do its best to guarantee that everything will be up to your expectations.

I sincerely hope that you will grant Paris the privilege and honour of hosting your congress in 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Anne HIDALGO

Professor Michael J. Wingfield
President,
International Union of Forest Research Organizations
IUFRO Headquarters - Secretariat
Marxergasse 2
A-1030 Vienna,
AUSTRIA
Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau, I wish to extend a warm invitation to you to hold the International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress – IUFRO in 2024 in Paris and I am pleased to offer my full support to our city’s bid.

Paris offers a geographical situation which makes it an ideal platform to constantly develop economic exchanges. This strategic position at the centre of Europe makes it easily accessible by air, rail and road networks.

Paris also has a long experience in hosting international congresses and exhibitions. Its convention and exhibition centres offer large and adaptable premises and hi-tech communication equipment. Paris Region is undeniably one of the world’s highest-ranked cities in terms of its hotel capacity and amenities, with more than 160,000 rooms. Parisian hotels are globally renowned for their top class services and their compliance with the highest standards of comfort.

Paris is a destination with a dedicated network of professionals always attentive to delegates’ expectations, and providing the ingredients to make your event a record-breaking success. Indeed the Paris City Council, the Paris Ile-de-France Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Parisian key players and the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau have put in place a global policy facilitating the organization of major events. This has led to the elaboration of the Charter for the Hosting of Professional Events, signed in May 2010.

Furthermore, alongside its image of Capital of Arts and Culture, Paris is a creative destination, in perpetual renewal, always on the move, a buzzing modern city with trendy bars and restaurants and vibrant nightlife.

I am truly convinced that these assets are more than able to fulfil all the requirements of a world-class, high-value and demanding congress like the IUFRO World Congress.

I wish to welcome you whole-heartedly to Paris in 2024 and I can assure you that the Paris Convention Bureau will offer its best assistance in all aspects to make the International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress – IUFRO 2024 an unforgettable event.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Schapira
Professor Michael J. Wingfield  
President  
International Union of Forest Research Organizations  
IUFRO Headquarters - Secretariat  
Marxergasse 2  
A-1030 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Mr. President,

The European Forest Institute (EFI) strongly supports ECOFOR’s application for hosting in Paris and in 2024 the XXVIth World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

The IUFRO World Congress has been held in Europe only once since the creation of EFI in 1993. The foreseen success of the next regional anniversary congress in Freiburg in September 2017 for the 125th year of IUFRO is a good example of the need to hold a World Congress in Europe.

France has been active in EFI from the origin with ECOFOR as one of its first associate members. EFI and ECOFOR are direct consequences of the first Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe jointly organized by France and Finland in Strasbourg in 1990 and followed today under the auspices of FOREST EUROPE. Inside EFI, France is at the interface between three regional offices: it supports directly EFIATLANTIC which is located in Bordeaux and deals with issues relative to planted forests; it also takes part in EFIMED for Mediterranean forests and EFICENT for sustainable forest management in Central Europe. These facts are an expression of the biogeographical diversity of this country in the European continent. France also plays an important role on EFI’s activities on issues such as illegal logging (FLEGT Facility) or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD Facility).

On behalf of EFI, I fully support the French initiative to apply for the organization of the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress, which is led by ECOFOR around a vision aiming at “Forests for resilient landscapes and societies”. This vision is based on the development of forest ecosystem services and the mitigation of risks: it is fully in line not only with IUFRO’s strategy but also with EFI’s new strategy. Indeed, the latter is built around Bioeconomy, Resilience and Governance with three strategic goals in research and innovation, in science-informed policies to address societal challenges and opportunities, and in awareness in society of the importance of forests.

These are the reasons why EFI would be pleased to give an enlarged and pan-European basis to this French application by all means, and why I invite you to choose Europe, France and Paris to host the XXVIth IUFRO World Congress and make it a success.

Yours faithfully,

Marc Palahi, Director