

The speech text for the 21st Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture  
Organization (FAO) Committee on Mediterranean Forest Questions  
**(Silva Mediterranea)**

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**2 February 2012-Antalya**

Dear Participants, Dear Colleagues

I would like to welcome you with my deepest respect and I would like to convey my happiness about being here with you.

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Dear Participants,

Food and Agriculture Organization is a “specialized agency” of the United Nations, which is responsible for food, agriculture, husbandry and natural resources as well as forestry. Turkey has been a member of FAO since 1948.

The relations between FAO and Turkey have strengthened within the framework of the Host Country Agreement between FAO and the Republic of Turkey, which was published in the Official Gazette and put into force on December 6, 2008 and established the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (SEC).

*The works and activities of FAO regarding forestry are being carried out by;*

- *Committee on Forestry- COFO,*
- *Regional Forestry Commissions,*
- *Technical Statutory Bodies<sup>1</sup>;*

*Turkey is actively involved in these bodies and is a member of both Europe Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission.*

We have come together here for the 21st Session Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, namely Silva Mediterranea.

First of all, I would like to remember our dear colleague Robert Hickel with respect, who pioneered this valuable initiative and fostered the idea of cooperation for Mediterranean forests 100 years ago, in 1911.

Being established in 1911, **Silva Mediterranea** became the main advisory body and a common platform of FAO Mediterranean forestry with the participation of FAO European, African and the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in **1948**. It has now 27 members including the European Union.

A variety of projects have been carried out since then, and the process has continued without any interruption. Though it sometimes lapsed into silence; it has inspired a lot of international cooperation, like Barcelona<sup>2</sup> and Union for Mediterranean<sup>3</sup>. And **after the 20<sup>th</sup> Session in Sofia, the process has gained** acceleration.

**Recently under the umbrella of Silva Mediterranea**, two projects with a budget of 6.6 million Euros were brought into action with the support of German and French Development Agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm)

**Personally, I would like to share my excitement and happiness to undertake the Presidency of Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (2012-2016) on behalf of Turkey.**

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Like the improvements in Silva Mediterranean, **during the period 2008-2012**, Turkish forestry has experienced several positive developments, and international relations have intensified.

Turkey has been a host country for many meetings in the framework of the idea as we mentioned very simply in the early 2008 as **“All foresters all over the world will be our guest, and our foresters will explore the world”**.

Besides these meetings, Turkey became partner in existing projects, developed new projects, and actively celebrated the International Year of Forests. Also necessary amendments to legislation and some changes in the administration were made. Also capacity building was among the priorities.

*In this context I am very pleased to inform you that;*

- *The Presidency of Near East Forestry Commission,*
- *The Presidency of Silva Mediterranean,*
- *The Presidency of European Forestry Commission Working Group on the Management of Mountainous Watersheds will be executed by Turkish Foresters.*
- *Turkey is a member of Forest Europe General Coordination Committee and a member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for European Forestry Agreement.*
- *The 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forestry will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in the year of 2013.*
- *The Government of Turkey, with the hand of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affaires will do its utmost, like the Undersecretary mentioned in his speech here for the opening of NEFRC.*

We have attached great importance to enabling our staff to go abroad for several occasions since we are fully aware that achieving all the above mentioned works is **only possible with well-trained human resource**. In this context, in 2012, 35 forest engineers who were selected in cooperation with the Ministry of Education will be sent to abroad for doing their master's degree.

Also we have made some Legislative Amendments dated 4 July 2011 to Support International Efforts.

*With the decree having force of law<sup>4</sup>” dated 4 July 2011 and no/645 regarding the Structure and Duties of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affair, General Directorate for Combating Desertification<sup>5</sup> and Erosion was established; and with the article 30/A the duties and powers of General Directorate for Forestry were redetermined.*

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2011/07/20110704M1-2.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/partners/stories.php?newch=NewDirectorate>

With this regulation;

- *Ecosystem integrity, participatory and multi-functional planning,*
- *Urban forests, biodiversity protection areas in forest, model forests,*
- *Products and services provided from forest ecosystems,*
- *Institutions, directorates and research units to operate on local, national and global level,*
- *To work in a close cooperation with non-governmental organizations, universities and private sector which produce, manage, market, import and export any kinds of forest products,*
- *Such issues as providing consultancy service at home and abroad, implementing projects and marketing products and services, were for the first time placed in our law.*

More importantly, based on the existing FAO-Turkey Partnership, **a special partnership agreement on forestry negotiations has been started in the late of 2010** and it is expected to finalize before the end of this year, like **the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Prof. Dr. Lutfi AKCA mentioned in his speech at the opening of Near East Forestry Commission, 29<sup>th</sup> of January.**

With a view to making good use of 2012-2016 Turkish presidency of Silva Mediterranean for all the partners, it is aimed to put into practice the working plan for Turkish presidency of Silva Mediterranean **to be prepared in cooperation with different Ministries and Institutions.**

Some of them like below;

- *Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs,*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs,*
- *Ministry of Development,*
- *Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Husbandry,*
- *Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) as from June 2012.*

In this process;

- It is aimed to work in a close cooperation with the agencies below, especially the ones mentioned at the document prepared for NEFRC with reference number: **FO:NEFRC/2012/4.1** The Mandate and Activities of the Regional Forestry and Rangelands Bodies in the Near East: An Overview<sup>6</sup>.
- Besides these agencies and organizations;
  - European Forestry Commission, African Forestry and Wildlife Forestry Commission and Near East Forestry and Range Commission,
  - Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly<sup>7</sup> still headed by Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the parliamentarian of Antalya,
  - General Secretariat of Union for Mediterranean<sup>8</sup>.
  - Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forestry
  - Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe<sup>9</sup>(Forest Europe) and the Liaison Unit in Madrid and the Bureau of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for European Forestry Convention,
  - United Nations Forum on Forests<sup>10</sup>(UNFF),

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/024/Mc933e.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/defaultE.asp>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ufmsecretariat.org/en/organisation/>

<sup>9</sup> [www.foresteuropa.org](http://www.foresteuropa.org)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

- UNECE Timber Committee,
  - Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia<sup>11</sup>,
  - Organization of Islamic Cooperation<sup>12</sup>
  - Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>13</sup>
- Also special attention will be given to cooperate with nongovernmental organization and private sector like;
    - Exporter and Importer Unions for Wood<sup>14</sup> and Forestry Products<sup>15</sup>,
    - European Wood, Turkish National Timber Association<sup>16</sup>, Bee-Keeping Associations<sup>17</sup>
    - Universities, Research Institutions, Chamber of Forest Engineers, Unions, Cooperative Societies.

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There are so many important issues on our agenda here like;

- The Integrated Strategy on Mediterranean Forest,
- Preparations the State of Mediterranean Forest,
- Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.
- Mediterranean Forest Week.
- And the Future of Silva Med

And of course, the agenda will be open for new ideas, proposal and projects.

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Before closing my speech, please allow me to thank my dear colleagues, Mr. Spas TODOROV, from Bulgaria, the Former President of Silva MED, and to Ms. Nora BERRAHMOUNI and Christophe BESACIER. I am sure that; the Silva MED members will remember this wonderful team with wonderful memories and full of respects.

My special thanks also go to Mr. Mohamed Saket and his team, as well as to Mr. Erdoğan Şirin, Abdurrahman KOK and Dr. Şükran GÖKDEMİR and to Mr. Mustapha SINECEUR from FAOSEC and of course to Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES from FAO and to those who support us with their invaluable efforts.

**And my sincere thanks to all of you for being here with us in spite of harsh weather conditions.**

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/asyada-isbirligi-ve-guven-arttirici-onlemler-konferansi.tr.mfa>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/islam-isbirligi-teskilati.tr.mfa>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.turkishwood.org>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.oaib.org.tr/en>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ahsap.org/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.tab.org.tr>

I wish you will return your country, your home with beautiful memories from Turkey, from this part of the Mediterranean, which has been a cradle for many civilizations and from Antalya, the pearl of the Mediterranean.

I wish that the waves of the Mediterranean lashing against our shores, sometimes softly like caressing the hair of a lover or of a cutest child will bring us friendship and brotherhood and I also wish that the sun of Mediterranean will warm our hearts and thoughts both today and in the future.

I believe foresters are special, so, let's keep doing good and special things for the humanity and for the world.

Let's prepare ourselves not for one or two years, but decades or beyond, just like the lives of trees!

Thank you for your attention.

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012

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## 1. Cooperation of FAO and Silva Mediterranean with Turkey

Food and Agriculture Organization is “specialized agency” of United Nations, which is responsible for food, agriculture, husbandry and natural resources as well as forestry. Turkey has been a member of FAO since 1948, and FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia kicked off its activities in 2007 in Ankara<sup>18</sup>.

The works and activities of FAO regarding forestry are being carried out by;

- Committee on Forestry- COFO,
- *Regional Forestry Commissions,*
- *and Technical Statuary Bodies*<sup>19</sup>;

Turkey is actively involved in these bodies and is a member of both Europe Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission.

Being established in 1911, *Silva Mediterranean* became the main advisory body and a common platform of FAO Mediterranean forestry with the participation of FAO European, African and the Near East Forestry Commission in **1948**. It has now 27 members including European Union.

Silva Mediterranean has gained a new acceleration with “Barcelona Process”<sup>20</sup> initiated in 1995 by European Union with a view to strengthening the relations between Europe and Mediterranean and with “*Union for Mediterranean (UfM*<sup>21</sup>)”, a follow-up process” initiated in 2008.

Moreover, the relations between FAO and Turkey have strengthened within the framework of “FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia Agreement” between FAO and the Republic of Turkey, which was published in the Official Gazette and put into force on December 6, 2008 and. Two of our colleagues started to work in FAOSEC in the context of this agreement.

## 2. Silva Mediterranean 2008-2012

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of Silva Mediterranean held in 2008 in Sofia, new and important decisions were adopted and the relevant works accelerated in this regard.

The period 2008-2012 can be summarized briefly as follows:

- “*Silva Mediterranean Enlarged Executive Committee*” comprising of Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Portugal and Turkey was established.
- *Silva Mediterranean Secretariat* was strengthened with the support of FAO and France.
- *Study plans for the Working Groups and projects* were prepared.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/birlesmis-milletler-gida-ve-tarim-orgutu-fao.tr.mfa>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>

<sup>20</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/barcelona_en.htm)

<sup>21</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm)



- *Under the umbrella of Silva Mediterranean, two projects with a budget of 6.6 million Euro were brought into action with the support of German and French Development Agencies. The process for the approval of the two projects submitted to the European Union is in progress.*
- *The First Mediterranean Forest Week was celebrated in 2010 in Antalya, and the Second Forest Week was celebrated in 2011 in France. At the Silva Mediterranean Enlarged Executive Committee meeting, Turkey was elected to the presidency of Silva Mediterranean (2012-2016), and it was decided to convene in Turkey for the 21<sup>st</sup> Session in 2012.*

### 3. Turkish Forestry and Other International Meetings-Projects

During the period 2008-2012, Turkish forestry has experienced several positive developments, and international relations have intensified. Turkey has been a host country for many meetings in the framework of the idea I simply remarked in the early 2008 ***“All foresters all over the world will be our guest, and our national foresters will explore the world”***. Turkey actively celebrated the International Year of Forests, became partner in existing projects, developed new projects, and necessary amendments to legislation and some changes in the administration were made.

In this context, some examples may be given as follows:

#### 3.1. Researches

- ***“COST Strategic Workshop on Forest Ecosystems in a Changing Environment and Identifying Future Monitoring and Research Needs”*** was held in January 2008 in Istanbul with the participation of over 180 guests from 30 countries<sup>22</sup>.
- *Another COST meeting on Capacity Building for Forest Fire also held in Antalya between 13-18 April, 2009 together with EFIMED and Turkish Forestry Organisation. More than 20 researchers from abroad and nine participants from Turkey joined to this programme.*

#### 3.2. Forest and Water

- *In cooperation with Forest Europe, “Forest and Water Workshop”* was held on 12-14 May 2009 in Antalya<sup>23</sup>.
- *In cooperation with FAO and Forest Europe, a side event was organized during the World Forestry Congress<sup>24</sup> held on 23 October 2009 in Argentine,*
- *Turkey participated in “Forest and Water in the context of Climate Change”, which was organized at the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO convened on October 5, 2010.*
- *28<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watershed was held on 12-16 September 2011 in Kastamonu-Turkey<sup>25</sup>. The Presidency of this working group will be executed by Turkish Foresters.*

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.cost.esf.org/events/node\\_1355](http://www.cost.esf.org/events/node_1355)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.foresteurope.org/MCPFE+Workshop+on+Forests+and+Water.9UFRjWZf.ips>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.foresteurope.org/?module=Files;action=File.getFile;ID=1270>

<sup>25</sup> <http://forests-water.ogm.gov.tr/>

### 3.3. Forests and Climate Change

- National coordination of Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) with in the frame work UNFCCC was assigned to the Forestry Organization,
- During the conference with the theme of “The Role of Forests in the Context of Climate Change” held on 4 October 2008 in St. Petersburg, Russia, a presentation on “Forestry Activities in Turkey in the Context of Climate Change” was given.
- During the “UNFCCC COP14” held in December 2008 in Poznan, Poland, a side event regarding “Forestry in Turkey” was organized,
- In 2009, the website, <http://www.forestandclimate.gov.t/> , in Turkish, English and Russian was created,
- In 2010, in cooperation with UNDP Turkish Office, “Local Implementation Project on Economic, Social and Environmental Services of Forests” was carried out<sup>26</sup>,
- In 2011, Turkey became a partner to “Adapting Forest Policies to Climate Change Conditions in MENA Region Project being conducted by FAO Silva Mediterranean, and in this regard a website was created in Turkish, English and Arabic<sup>27</sup>,
- The script of the “Project on Integrated Management of Mediterranean Forests with High Protective Value in Turkey” to be implemented in February 2012 in cooperation with FAO and UNDP, with a budget of about 20 million dollar is in progress<sup>28</sup>.

### 3.4. Dry Land Forestry, Combating Desertification and Erosion

- CRIC-7 and CST-1 Sessions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was held on 3-14 November 2008 in Istanbul<sup>29</sup>.
- As of 2010, a Regional Cooperation Project titled “Land Rehabilitation, Combating Desertification and Erosion, and Forestry” was kicked off<sup>30</sup> in cooperation with UNCCD Secretariat, Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs and TIKA,
- Turkey participated in “the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>31</sup>” held on 9-13 May 2011 in Istanbul and organized a side event during that conference.
- Turkey participated at the highest political level in the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting<sup>32</sup> on “Combating Desertification” held on 20 September 2011 in New York.
- A high level delegation from Turkey participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> UNCCD Conference of the Parties held on 10-21 October 2011 in South Korea.<sup>33</sup>
- As of January 2012, a project proposal was submitted to TIKA with the theme of “Capacity Development in Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought in African Countries<sup>34</sup>”. A similar project is indented to be drawn up for Central Asia, Middle East and the Balkans.
- In order to develop the projects which are to be implementation areas of the above mentioned project which focuses much more on structural capacity development, a delegation headed by Hanifi AVCI, General Director, General Directorate of

<sup>26</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/diger/kucukyativrimlar/Sayfalar/projehakk%c4%b1nda.aspx>

<sup>27</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/diger/mena/Sayfalar/default.aspx>

<sup>28</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/diger/iklim/Haberler/DispForm.aspx?ID=192>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cric7/>

<sup>30</sup> [http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/erozyon/2010\\_Yili\\_ULUSLARARASI\\_EgiTiMLER.pdf](http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/erozyon/2010_Yili_ULUSLARARASI_EgiTiMLER.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www ldc4istanbul.org/>

<sup>32</sup> <http://gahlm.unccd.int/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop10/menu.php>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.cem.gov.tr/erozyon/Files/Afrika/CABUKxING.pdf>

*Combating Desertification and Erosion Control is planned to visit Mali, Senegal and Mauritania in March 2012.*

- *On January 5, 2012, an official cooperation proposal was made by UNCCD Secretariat, and the proposal is being negotiated by relevant authorities.*
- *In line with the proposals by Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>35</sup>, the work for establishing the “Regional Research Center for Combating Desertification” under the “Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia-CICA”<sup>36</sup> in Turkey is in progress.*

### **3.4.1. The Relations with FAO - UNECE-UNFF and FOREST EUROPE**

- *The FAO-Turkey relations have strengthened within the framework of “FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia-FAO-SEC Agreement between FAO and Republic of Turkey”, which was put into force pursuant to its publication in the Official Gazette<sup>37</sup> on December 6, 2008.*
- *In 2011, negotiations on a cooperation agreement regarding forestry issues were kicked off.*
- *“28<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watershed” was held on 12-16 September 2011 in Kastamonu-Turkey<sup>38</sup>.*
- *FAO European Forestry Commission meeting was held on 10-14 October 2011 in Antalya<sup>39</sup>.*
- *20<sup>th</sup> session of FAO the Near East Forestry and Range Commission, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Near East Forestry Week was held on 29 January-2 February 2012 in Antalya.*
- *21<sup>st</sup> session of FAO Silva Med is organized on 2-3 February 2012 in Turkey.*

### **3.4.2. UNECE TCC**

- *Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forestry Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia convened on 20-22 September 2010 in Istanbul<sup>40</sup>.*
- *Turkey was the host country for the joint meeting of FAO European Forestry Commission and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE Timber Committee) held on 10-14 October 2011 in Antalya<sup>41</sup>.*
- *UNECE Timber Committee 2012 Forest Communicators Network Meeting will be held on 19-21 June 2012 in Antalya<sup>42</sup>.*

### **3.4.3. UNFF and the International Forest Year**

- *10th Session of UNFF is to be held in April 2013 in Istanbul<sup>43</sup>.*
- *“An Exhibition” was organized in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and in the Permanent Mission of Turkey in New York in the context of 2011 International Forest Year<sup>44</sup>.*

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<sup>35</sup> [http://www.s-cica.org/page.php?page\\_id=116&lang=1](http://www.s-cica.org/page.php?page_id=116&lang=1)

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.tccb.gov.tr/sayfa/ziyaretler/cica-ozel/>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2008/12/20081206-1.htm>

<sup>38</sup> <http://forests-water.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>39</sup> <http://efctc.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.unece.org/forests/output/meetings/fpreece.html>

<sup>41</sup> <http://efctc.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.unece.org/forests>

<sup>43</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/Haberler/DispForm.aspx?ID=13443>

<sup>44</sup> <http://iyf.ogm.gov.tr/>

#### 3.4.4. Taking Part in Mediterranean Model Forest Network

Following the efforts initiated in 2009, Yalova Model Forest<sup>45</sup> from Turkey, joined in Mediterranean Model Forest Networks<sup>46</sup> in 2011.

#### 3.4.5. FOREST EUROPE

- *In cooperation with Forest Europe, “Forest Europe Forest and Water Workshop” was organized on 12-14 May 2009 in Antalya<sup>47</sup>.*
- *At the Ministerial Conference held on 16 June 2011 in Oslo, Turkey was elected to the Forest Europe General Coordinating Committee consisting of 5 members and to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Commission comprising of 10 members.*

### 4. Legislative Amendments to Support International Efforts

- *Pursuant to the article 7 of the decree having force of law<sup>48</sup>” dated 4 July 2011 and no/645 regarding the Structure and Duties of the Ministry of Forest and Water Affair, General Directorate for Combating Desertification and Erosion was established; and with the article 30/A the duties and powers of General Directorate for Forestry were redetermined.*
- *With this regulation;*
  - *Ecosystem integrity, participatory and multi-functional planning,*
  - *Urban forests, biodiversity protection areas in forest, model forests,*
  - *Products and services provided from forest ecosystems,*
  - *Institutions, directorates and research units to operate on local, national and global level,*
  - *To work in a close cooperation with non-governmental organizations, universities and private sector which produce, manage, market, import and export any kinds of forest products,*
  - *Such issues as providing consultancy service at home and abroad, implementing projects and marketing products and services were for the first time placed in our law.*

### 5. Training Abroad

We have attached great importance to enabling our staff to go abroad for several occasions since we are fully aware that achieving all the above mentioned works is **only possible with well-trained manpower**. In 2012, 35 forest engineers who were selected in cooperation with the Ministry of Education will be sent to abroad for doing their master’s degree.

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<sup>45</sup> <http://yalovamodelormanı.org.tr/tr/index.php>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.mmfı.info/sitio/>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.foresteurope.org/MCPFE+Workshop+on+Forests+and+Water.9UFRjWZf.ips>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2011/07/20110704M1-2.htm>

## **6. The Agenda for 21st Session of Silva Mediterranean and Recommendations**

Some points to be addressed during this meeting;

### **6.1. Forest Fire Working Group**

Information on Forest Management System<sup>49</sup>, Fire Ponds, The Project on Rehabilitation of the Burnt Lands and Establishment of Forest with Fire-resistant Species<sup>50</sup> may be given.

### **6.2. Cork Oak Working Group**

Honey Production Forests<sup>51</sup> and Honeydew Honey (Pine Honey) can be addressed.

### **6.3. Mediterranean Forests and Sustainable Development Working Group**

The works related to Yalova Model Forest<sup>52</sup> and Certification<sup>53</sup> can be mentioned.

### **6.4. Forest Genetic Resources Working Group**

Information on the works related to forests and biological diversity can be given<sup>54</sup>.

### **6.5. Forests and Climate Change Working Group**

Information on bio-energy and other activities can be given<sup>55</sup>.

### **6.6. Sustainable Financial Mechanisms**

Forest, forest products and services

### **6.7. Urban Forests**

## **7. Recommendations on New Working Group**

Considering the geographical and topographical situation of the region (Africa, Near East, Central Asia, Southern Europe) a working group on “arid and semi arid forestry, rehabilitation and forestation of degraded land, combating to erosion and desertification”

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<sup>49</sup> <http://yanginyonetimi.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.yardop.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>51</sup> <http://balormani.ogm.gov.tr/>

<sup>52</sup> <http://yalovamodelormani.org.tr/tr/index.php>

<sup>53</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/birimler/bolgemudurlukleri/bolu/FSCOrmanYonetimi/Sayfalar/default.aspx>

<sup>54</sup> <http://web.ogm.gov.tr/diger/biyocesitlilik/Sayfalar/default.aspx>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.forestandclimate.gov.tr/>

## 8. The Priorities of Turkish Presidency and the Organizations to Cooperate with

With a view to making good use of 2012-2016 Turkish presidency of Silva Mediterranean for all the partners, it is aimed to put into practice the working plan for Turkish presidency of Silva Mediterranean to be prepared in cooperation with;

- Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Ministry of Development,
- Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Husbandry,
- Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) as from June 2012.

This working plan will be prepared within the framework of Prime Ministry Circular<sup>56</sup> (no 2010/7) with the theme of “African Strategy”.

In this process;

- It is aimed to work in a close cooperation with;
  - “**Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly**<sup>57</sup>” still headed by Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the parliamentarian of Antalya,
  - “**General Secretariat of Union for Mediterranean**<sup>58</sup>”.
  - And, of course the members of “**Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forestry**”
- In addition to this,
  - “**Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe**<sup>59</sup>” (Forest Europe) and,
  - “**United Nations Forum on Forests**<sup>60</sup>” (UNFF) are the priority organizations to cooperate with.
- Furthermore, it is considered that it is possible to implement far more efficient activities primarily in Central Asia counties in Asia region by cooperating with “**Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia**<sup>61</sup>” and by carrying out joint works with “**Organization of Islamic Cooperation**<sup>62</sup>” and other organizations in **Africa and the Near East**.
- In addition to this, a close cooperation with the “**Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**<sup>63</sup>” may be considered.

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<sup>56</sup> <http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2010/03/20100326-16.htm>

<sup>57</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/defaultE.asp>

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.ufmsecretariat.org/en/organisation/>

<sup>59</sup> [www.foresteurope.org](http://www.foresteurope.org)

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/asyada-isbirligi-ve-guven-arttirici-onlemler-konferansi.tr.mfa>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/islam-isbirligi-teskilati.tr.mfa>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/>