

3rd Mediterranean Forest Week
March, 17-21, 2013
Tlemcen, Algeria

Speech Text
Opening Speech
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09:00-10:45

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President
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Mr. President,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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Being glad with the opening of the Third Mediterranean Forest Week, I greet you all with my due respect as the president of the Silva Mediterranea, one of the prominent international organizations operating in the field of forestry in the Mediterranean Region.

Having been established in 1911, Silva Mediterranea turned into a technical consultancy body focusing on the Mediterranean Region in cooperation with the Forestry Commissions of FAO for Europe, Africa and Near East and has conducted several successful projects.

One of these successful projects, supported by Silva Mediterranea is “Mediterranean Forest Week” (MFW). MFW, the first of which was held in Turkey in 2010, was held in France in 2011 for the second time and the third MFW was organized in Tlemcen, Algeria. That’s to say that MFW has been held in the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, which constitute the Silva Mediterranea. I am sure this is the reflection of the region's cultural diversity

Additionally, celebration of the first International Forest Day, which was declared in November 2012 by the General Assembly of the United Nations upon the request of FAO, here in Tlemcen, will be recorded as one of the corner stones in the history of forestry. We are proud that Turkey and Algeria, two members of the Silva Mediterranea, played an active role at the process for Declaration of March 21 as the International Forest Day².

I would also like to repeat that UNFF10 (United Nations Forum on Forests), one of the most important conferences in the field of forestry will soon be held in Turkey, a member of the Silva Mediterranea.

As we know very well, in accordance with its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, the Forum, at its ten session, is scheduled to consider, under the overall theme “Forest and economic development”, with the following sub-themes;

- Forest Products and services,
- National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies,
- Reducing risk and impacts of disasters
- Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities.

During this week we will discuss these above mentioned overall and sub-themes and more for Mediterranean region and we will be able to disseminate and share with other countries during UNFF10.

² <http://www.fao.org/forestry/36014-063ec88fa19cab1dfe473d7813290b32.pdf>

Distinguished Participants,

Today, the Silva Mediterranea works actively with 27 member countries and one international organization (European Union). By means of the projects initiated recently, the Silva Mediterranea became more efficient and started to receive assistance from donor agencies such as European Commission, Development Agency of Germany (GIS), Development Agency of France (Afd) , Turkish Cooperation Agency (TIKA) . The Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests, which was opened for signature in 2010 in Istanbul, has today gained a tremendous momentum.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the former presidents Mr. Spas TODOROV of Bulgaria, Mr. Abdulhafi HOUMY of Morocco for their successful works and to Mr. Christophe BESACIER, who has been working like a one-man army for the Secretariat of the Silva Mediterranea.

Distinguished Participants,

The Third Mediterranean Forest Week will be recorded as an event where significant documents were developed and ratified. Within this framework the following activities will be conducted;

- Launch the State of the Mediterranean Forests (SoMF),
- The Strategic Framework of the Mediterranean Forests(SFMF)
- Adopt the Declaration of Tlemcen
- Prepare a presentation to be presented at UNFF10, to be held in Turkey, from April 8-19, 2013³.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Participants,

The representatives of the member countries and organizations especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria and the General Directorate of Forestry came together for several times and conducted intense activities for organization of the Mediterranean Forest Week.

I, as the President of the Silva Mediterranea, would like to express my deepest gratitude to members of this Committee and the General Directorate of Forestry of Algeria, the officials of the Park of Tlemcen and the local authorities of Tlemcen for their wonderful cooperation. I thank you.

³ <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>