



**Prof. Dr. Lütfi Akca**

Undersecretary

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs

Söğütözü Cad. No: 14/E Beştepe

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TURKEY

Helsinki/Oslo, 23 August 2011

**ESTABLISHING THE BUREAU OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
ACCORDING TO THE OSLO MINISTERIAL MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATING A  
LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT ON FORESTS IN EUROPE**

Sir,

At the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Oslo on 14-16 June 2011, the FOREST EUROPE signatories adopted the 'Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe'. By the mandate signatories commit to elaborate a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and, to this end, to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to develop such an agreement.

According to the Oslo mandate, the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall consist of the Chair of the Committee and representatives of the following countries: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine, and Spain as permanent observer. The Chair and the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee are requested to facilitate the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in fulfilling its mandate and to guide the secretariat in providing the necessary services to the negotiations. The working language of the Bureau will be English. I am hereby sending the full text of the Decision and its Annex. Please note, in particular, paragraph 20 on page 2.

In my capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, I would be grateful if you could nominate the representative of Turkey to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

I intend to hold the first Bureau meeting on 5-6 September 2011 in Joensuu, Finland. I therefore kindly ask you to nominate the representative of Turkey at your earliest convenience. Please send the nomination letter with the contact details of your nominee to Ms. Malgorzata Briggs, ([Malgorzata.Briggs@foresteurope.org](mailto:Malgorzata.Briggs@foresteurope.org)) at the Liaison Unit Oslo, which facilitates arrangements for starting the negotiating process.

I thank you in advance for the consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Heino', is positioned above the printed name.

Jan Heino  
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

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Annex: Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.