

Robinews

LA NEWSLETTER UFFICIALE DI **Robinwood** Project
Giving Rural Europe a New Future



North East SOUTH West
INTERREG III C



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REGIONE LIGURIA



LAND
BRANDENBURG



Región de Murcia



Comisiwn Coedwigoeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales



Autonomous Regions
of Košice and Prešov

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PLAN OF ACTION FOR FORESTS

The European Union Council, during a meeting held on 24 and 25 October under the Finnish presidency, approved the EU Commission announcement of 15 June 2006 adopting the "Plan of action for forests", which amends and strengthens the European forest strategy of 1998.

The main objective of the plan is to improve sustainable and integrated management of European forests according to a vision of forest assets that entails long-term multi-functionality of forests to satisfy current and future needs of society.

Taking into consideration the variety and diversity of natural, social, economic and cultural contexts, as well as the variety of ownership of woodlands in the EU, the plan of action shows the need to differentiate strategies and actions and tailor them to the type of forest.

There are four main actions indicated in the plan: increase long-term competitiveness, improve and protect the environment, improve the quality of life and foster coordination and communication; all of this through a series of key actions taken in 2007-2011.

The EU Council, in their final approval document, invite the Commission and member States to make a joint effort to take key actions in an effective and well-balanced manner through a work plan that specifies actions and timeframes. The Council also stressed the importance of ensuring consistency and synergy with other related initiatives put forth by the Commission, in particular, with the plan of action for biomass, the plan of action for biodiversity, the FLEGT plan of action (Forest law enforcement, governance and trade), and the seventh framework program.

A delegation of representatives of partners in the Robinwood project, after a series of contacts and exchanges of information, met with Mr. Seoane, the commission's person in charge of the action plan for forests.

The meeting showed the Commission's interest in gathering feedback from the territory on the method and possibility of applying the Plan of Action for Forests on a regional and local level. This convergence of objectives will coincide with the participation of Mr. Soane in the next meeting of the Steering Committee on 29 January 2007 in Brussels and at the International Conference on Forests in Wales from 14 to 16 February 2007.





FORESTRY - A NEW FUTURE FOR A RURAL EUROPE

THE THIRD ROBINWOOD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY ROBINWOOD IS BEING HELD IN LLANDUDNO, WALES 14-16 FEBRUARY 2007



The Third Robinwood International Conference: Forestry – a new future for rural Europe is being held in Llandudno, Gwynedd, Wales 14-16 February 2007.

This is the third international conference organised by Robinwood and is open to anyone with an interest in developing this important new role for woodlands. Our aim is to draw up a way forward for the future – a draft blueprint for the way in which our

forests can help to create new jobs and new wealth in our rural areas. Using the ideas from the conference plus information and best practice from across the partner regions, we will draw together this valuable document. It will then be used as an important tool in guiding politicians, planners and decision makers towards making the right choices about how the woodlands of Europe can make a major impact on rural regeneration. Using case studies from all the partner regions, key speakers and project leaders will be looking at how people across Europe are working to make the most of the forests – creating local markets for local timber that deliver local benefits. Leading policy influencers from all the Robinwood partner regions – including the Welsh Forestry Minister Tamsin Dunwoody – will be playing a key role in the conference. A series of field visits to see how Wales is using its woodlands for timber production adding value businesses, recreation and conservation is included in the programme. There is no charge for attending this three day conference. The field visits are also free of charge.



THE REGIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME OF LIGURIA

The Regional Forest Programme for 2007-2011 is currently up for approval by the Regional Council of Liguria. It outlines the general medium-long term objectives of actions undertaken to ensure conservation and sustainable management of woodlands.

The Regional Forest Programme arises from the necessity of those who directly or indirectly need to deal with the forestry industry in Liguria. This is why its development is characterised by a proactive approach involving the



Region, local bodies (Mountain Communities, City Consortia, Parkland administrations, etc.), the State Forest Rangers and professional foresters who work in the territory, with the support of the Faculty of Agricultural and



Forestry Sciences at the University of Turin.

In this view, the Mountain Communities of Liguria and City Consortia were involved and on-site meetings were held with forestry companies.

The Programme is linked to the aims, goals and actions of the Robinwood project and highlights how in a region such as Liguria, which is "made for forestry" (nearly three fourths of the region is covered by woodlands), woodland management policies are particularly urgent and needed, not only to draw up precise planning guidelines that actually answer to the social-economic reality and territory of Liguria, but also to exploit this resource and possibly give the sector a new boost.

Among the objectives of the Programme, which reflects the European Plan of Action for Forests:

- Contribute to the development and valorisation of the forest industry on a local and regional level
- Optimize public and private financial resources to invest in the sector
- Favor promotion and implementation of active forest management systems
- Optimize the functionality and complexity of forest systems
- Sustain the ability of forest systems to oppose disruptive factors
- Develop actions to protect the land, biodiversity and water sources
- Favor the production of woody and non-woody products and their exploitation



IN ITALY (ROME): RESULTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ENERGY AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



The International Seminar on Energy and Forest Products Industry was held in Rome last 30 and 31 October.

The seminar was organized thanks to the collaboration of several international organizations: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), IEA (International Energy Agency), ICFPA (International Council of Forest and Paper Associations), with the support of UNECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe), ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation) and WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development).

The seminar, attended by public and private organizations in the forest products industry, was concluded by reiterating the importance of the global forest products industry in the fight against climate changes by optimizing the use of raw materials, increasing energy efficiency and generating "clean" energy.

The conclusions of the seminar arose as the first step towards achieving the objectives proposed and obtaining a certain level of development in the sector is to carefully integrate and balance energy and forest policies on a global level. Naturally, this is possible only through collaboration between governments, sector industries, institutions and society.

During the seminar ICFPA, FAO, IEA and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) stressed how their collaboration will continue in the future with the aim of developing potential in the forest products industry in order to ease the effects of climate change and increase energy safety worldwide.

www.fao.org/forestry



PROJECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FINANCED BY ROBINWOOD

This issue of the newsletter marks the beginning of a process through 15 international partnership sub-projects started up by the European project Robinwood to find out which actions local groups should carry out and what their objectives are.



- **RE-MED. EXPERIENCES AND STUDIES ON SLOPES, RIVERS, MANAGEMENT AND FOREST REGENERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

RE-MED is fostered by a partnership involving the Province of La Spezia (Liguria, Italy) as project leader, the City of Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia, Spain), the Consortium for tourism and cultural development of Lorca (Murcia, Spain) and the City of Mula (Murcia, Spain). It focuses on improving hydro-geological management, introducing partner experiences in the system, acquiring information and integrating these features with forest management.

The main activities of the partners focus on experimenting management methods for riverbed vegetation and solving hydro-geological problems, determining common practices in relation to current environmental problems, drafting a comparative study that includes all the solutions found by partners to implement their activities in the project.

Below are the objectives the project should achieve through the activities described:

- definition of a model for managing waterway forest areas;
- using ecological engineering methods to arrange banks;
- reducing risks to communities around rivers through the management and maintenance of waterway forest areas.

- **LADYMARIAN. USE OF LAND, DYNAMIC CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT, REVITALIZING AND IMPROVING THE APENNINE FOREST**



The LADYMARIAN project, which involves the Mountain Communities of Valli Stura and Orba (Liguria, Italy), head of the project, C.A.PES (East Slovakia, Slovakia), the University of Bangor (Wales, UK) and CA Life for people (East Slovakia, Slovakia), conducts its activities in the framework of forest management, with actions aimed at setting up a model for sustainable forest management through best practices and various experiences from the partners involved.

The activities the partners are currently involved in concern the creation of a database for hydro-geological GIS and forest management, studies on supply chains for small biomass plants, the realization and spread of best practices in



forestry, gathering documents for drafting guidelines on sustainable forest management.

Below are the objectives the project should achieve by September 2007:

- realization of a hydro-geological simulation model;
- definition of a scheme for technical and financial support for small biomass plants;
- starting up a pilot project to promote artisan wood products;
- drafting a study on associations of forest owners;
- promoting the use of quality compost obtained from virgin wood ash; determining processes to improve the duration of woody products.


● **PROWOODENERGY. PROMOTION OF BIOMASS ENERGY BASED ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

ProWoodEnergy, consisting of an international partnership involving the financial district of Schraden (Brandenburg, Germany), head of project, the City of Millesimo (Liguria, Italy), and the City of Stara Lubovna (East Slovakia) for actions related to the promotion of energy from local forest biomass in order to encourage the use of cut timber and woody waste as an alternative to fossil fuels for energy, thereby favouring the reduction in polluting emissions and revitalizing rural areas through technological innovation.

Activities underway in this project include searching for potential biomass available in partner territories, studies on forestry (forest owners, companies and associations active in the field of environmental management), survey of best practices for forest management, activities to promote energy from biomass and feasibility studies on plants for energy generation.

Below are the objectives the project should achieve by the end of the project term:

- develop an integrated forest management plan;
- strengthen local wood chains by using biomass;
- reduce heating costs for public and private consumers;
- create new jobs in the wood chain and energy from biomass.

 **ONCOMING EVENT**

WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2007

The World Sustainable Energy Days 2007 – the largest annual conference in this field in Europe – is organized from 28 February to 2 March 2007 in Wels/Austria by the O.Oe. Energiesparverband, the energy agency of Upper Austria.

The conference offers a unique combination of events on sustainable energy production and use, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings, industry and transport.

Four conferences - which present the latest technology trends, outstanding examples and European strategies - and the "Energiesparmesse", an important energy exhibition and trade fair, offer ideal opportunities to establish new partnerships. The conference makes an important contribution to awareness raising for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Since 15 years, experts and decision makers from all over the world flock to Upper Austria to attend the events - in 2006, the conference attracted more than 930 participants from 56 countries.

The World Sustainable Energy Days 2007 comprise the following events:

- [European Pellets Conference](#)
- [European Energy Efficiency Conference](#)
- Conference "Energy Future 2030"
- [Seminar "Rural Development & Sustainable Energy"](#)
- Technical site-visits

www.wsed.at



ONCOMING EVENT

15TH EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



The 15th European Biomass Conference will be held in Berlin at the International Congress Center from 7 to 11 May 2007.

The aim of the conference is to gain insight, following international events in recent years, on the development of bio-energy and replacing fossil fuels, above all after the worldwide adoption of important legislation and new political strategies.

The conference will be organized in order to promote an actual debate on the issues proposed, in particular highlighting where the bio-energy community met with success and where they failed and attempt to determine its strengths and weaknesses.

In this sense a great deal of importance is placed on the debate between political organizations and industry, whose collaboration is indispensable in order to develop the bio-energy market as much as possible.

www.conference-biomass.com



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