

Mr. Jan Heino,
The Chair of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

Dear Sir,

Firstly, allow me to congratulate you on your new assignment, as the Chair of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Turkey supports the idea of Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and gives very much importance.

In order to facilitate the preparation process, we made these arrangements with the acknowledgment of the Minister of Forests and Water Affairs, HE Prof. Dr. Veysel EROĞLU.

1. Under the supervision of **Dr. Mahir Küçük**, Deputy Undersecretary, a working group, including representatives from Ministries, Universities, NGOs and private sector, has been established in order to create a platform to discuss the views of all stakeholders on this issue and to provide useful contributions to the FE process.
2. Two academicians, expert on forestry and environment issues, have been designated as "scientific adviser". Namely; **Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yeşil** and **Prof. Dr. Aynur Aydın Coşkun**, from Istanbul University Forestry Faculty.
3. **Ms. Emine Ataş** and **Mr. Serdar Yegül**, has been chosen as officials in order to support the secretariat established in Geneva when they needed up to six months in different time period. For sending our officials to the Secretariat, please inform us about most appropriate time.
4. Finally, **Mr. İsmail Belen, has been nominated as the permanent representative of Turkey to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.** He will also represent Turkey in the General Coordination Committee for Forest Europe.

Turkish official representatives will be ready for the first General Coordinating Committee meeting to be held in Germany, **10-11 November** and the First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting, as well as the Second Bureau meeting to be held in Geneva, **20-25 November**.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully.



Prof. Dr. Lütfi AKCA
Undersecretary