



Pro Silva Annual meeting 2021

Press release, 10th July 2021

“Forests in Europe need a paradigm shift”

Due to Covid 19 the Annual Meeting 2020 in Luxembourg had to be postponed and deferred to 2021. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be cancelled again, but in its place the first virtual Annual General Assembly meeting and the Annual Board of Directors meeting were held virtually, allowable with one year delay in accordance with the constitution.

Important changes were put in place at this meeting to take effect for period 2021-2023:

After **changes of the constitution** were accepted by the meeting an extended executive board with additional 6 members was established. The role and position of associated members and the administrator were more clearly defined.

In the election of the **Executive Board Members for the period 2021 – 2024**, **Eckart Senitza** (Austria) was voted as president for another 3-year term. Dr. **Tomáš Vrška** from Czech Republic, who now is leading the research forest of the Mendel University in Brno, and Dr. **Dušan Roženberger**, who is teacher and scientist at the Chair for Silviculture at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, Slovenia, were selected as vice-presidents. **Serge Reinardt**, a forest practitioner from Luxembourg was elected as new Treasurer and the **Padraig O'Tuama**, a forest consultant from Ireland, continues as secretary for another term.

The **extended executive board**, consisting of ProSilva member from different countries, was appointed to support the board each with a different background and specialities.

Anne Crespin, who works for Forêt.Nature in Belgium, will support the board in the role of administrator with specific job and building contacts in EU in Brussels. **Alex Held**, a prominent specialist for forest fires and hunting, works for EFI in Bonn, maintains good contacts and links for Pro Silva with EFI on different projects. Hubertus Lehnhausen from Germany is the representative to ProSilva's largest member organisation, “ANW Germany”. Prof. **Joao Carvalho** from Portugal has his focus on and represents the Mediterranean Region and Brazil and is part of a science network. **Jonathan Hulson** from Wales (UK) acts as the CCGF Contact Person and is specialist for media, campaign and public relation. The sixth member of extended executive board will come from **France**.

At the meeting **Pro Silva Polonia** was ratified as a new member of Pro Silva: “**Pro Silva Polonia**” was founded as a subsection of the Polish Forest Society. The founding team was led by practitioner **Daniel Lemke** and supported by well accepted scientists (*Dorota Dobrowolska*,



Maciej Pach, Janusz Szmyt), will start with activities in the forests and be the nucleus for growth of the association. - As a new associated member, the "**Tane's Tree Trust**" from New Zealand was accepted. We are glad to enlarge the 'family'.

With this newly expanded team Pro Silva will have a greater resource and specific competencies to intensify engagement in European Forest politics in some advisory positions. In addition, Pro Silva will continue to develop and extend the widespread range of exemplary forests ProSilva have in its membership countries throughout Europe and bring the practical evidence and science to a growing group of people.

Following the motto "from paper to the forest" Pro Silva focuses on the practical implementation of close-to-nature-forestry management with a broad and flexible approach. In this climate change is one dominant factor along with the preservation of biodiversity, carbon sequestration and increasing demand for ecosystem services. But the main focus will still be sustainable timber production for long lasting valuable products. This must be one important contribution to the "Green Deal" as promoted by the European Union.

The ongoing challenging changes in the physical, legal and social framework of forestry require the further engagement of Pro Silva and all its member organizations in the development of a new vision and strategy 2030+ for ProSilva.

*Pro Silva offers an impressive **network of forest practitioners and scientists** which is guided by a set of fundamental principles it has developed over 30 years. The numerous declarations are on our website www.prosilva.org as guidelines for better management of the forests of the future. Furthermore, we offer a network of **exemplary forests** all over Europe to visit and study recent developments. In addition, we offer the best strategies for forest conservation!*

www.prosilva.org - www.prosilva.net - www.forestconservation.eu

Who we are

Pro Silva is a European organisation which promotes close to nature forestry and continuous cover forest systems. It was established in 1989 in Slovenia. At present there are 22 full members of the organisation and there are also several other countries with associate membership. Since 2018 we have associated members from the United States (Forest Stewards Guild, New England Forestry Foundation), from India (ForEco India), from Brazil (ACEF St. Catarina) and Canada and hopefully this marks the beginning of the formation of a global network. More than 5500 professionals and forest owners are involved in Pro Silva.

Pro Silva promotes its principles and concepts through a Europe wide program of silvicultural education involving seminars and excursions. Increasingly the members are also involved as partners in national or international research and networking projects. A European network of best practice demonstration forests is being developed.