



## EFIATLANTIC AND IEFC ANNUAL MEETING

### *The Role of Alternative Tree Species in the Forests of Atlantic Europe*

9-12 May 2017

Edinburgh and the West Coast of Scotland

Hosted by Forest Research

Minutes



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Jean Michel Carnus (JMC), President of IEFC, welcomed all participants and thanked our local host for their hospitality, in particular Bill Mason. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in UK, seven members are represented:

- ISA
- INRA
- FR
- HAZI
- USSE
- FCBA
- WIT

In 2017, EFI has started to implement its new strategy “2025EFI” with a thematic framework based on three new programmes (RESILIENCE, BIOECONOMY and GOVERNANCE). This meeting is structured according to this framework.

### Report on 2016 activities and on-going projects or proposals

#### RESILIENCE

##### Risk management - Eduard Mauri, Christophe Orazio

- PLURIFOR project: *Transnational risk management plans for rural forest areas susceptible to biotic and abiotic risks*  
The INTERREG SODOE project coordinated by EFIATLANTIC is aiming at improving forest risk management plans in southwest Europe.  
No questions.
- MULTIRISK project: *Multiple risks analysis and mitigation in planted forests*  
Christophe Orazio (CO): we underestimate risks if we study them separately. EFI role in this project is trying to combine risks. It is important for end users. EFI will also study the interaction between modelling and economics.
- HOMED proposal: *Horizon2020 R&I collaborative project on emerging diseases in European Forests.*  
No questions.
- RIMFOR proposal : *Risques Multiples en Forêt : French national call for collaborative projects on forest innovation (linking with the European Forest Risk Facility)*  
EFIATLANTIC will participate in WP1 aiming at setting up a national network on risk management in forest and WP2 that will make a first attempt of national risk mapping for many hazards.
- GEFF network: *Group of French-Speaking Forest Entomologists.*  
Bill Mason (BM) asked if it is the role of EFI to facilitate networks using specific national languages.  
Andreas Kleinschmit (AK) agrees that there are relevant topics in this network and this will allow EFI to have access to more information from national activities. Local stakeholders do not speak English, so it is important for these groups to exist.

##### Genetics - Christophe Orazio, Stephanie Hayes

- TREC AND CARAVANE projects: *sharing knowledge on seed and tree species: a first step.*

CO explained that the within the CARAVANE project we will create a platform in English where we will be able to upload data forest tree species and provenances characteristics. This collaborative effort referring to scientific publications will guaranty that data available for free are always up-to-date. For example, it can be used to upload the results coming from the REINFFORCE project.

For AK it is important to go further with these activities, it cannot just stop when the funding is over. There must be an effort to continue updating this platform even after the project is over.

- GenTree project (H2020- R&I collaborative project, 2016-2019):  
The main role of EFIATLANTIC is to evaluate the economic gain induced by tree breeding  
No questions were asked.
- Project proposal: H2020 call - BB-03-2017: *Adaptive tree breeding strategies and tools for forest production systems resilient to climate change and natural disturbances*  
Proposal under preparation and submitted to a secrecy agreement. *No questions were allowed.*
- ESPERENSE proposal (French call for collaborative projects on forest innovation): *RESeau national multiPartenaire d'Evaluation de Ressources gENétiques foreStièrEs pour le futur*. A national initiative aiming at setting up a French network similar to REINFFORCE. EFIATLANTIC is involved in the data management and sharing.  
No questions were asked.
- EVOLTREE network: *Linking genomics, genetics, ecology and evolution*.  
This network is funded by its own members, in cash or in-kind.

#### **BIOECONOMY** Rebeca Cordero ,Christophe Orazio, Eduard Mauri, Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld

- SIMWOOD project (7FP): *Unlocking wood mobilisation in Europe*  
RC presented the role of EFI in charge of communication and preparing a handbook. AK explained that FCBA was actively involved in French case studies providing solutions to improve wood mobilisation in Grand-est and Auvergne. He also reminded that FCBA is the main organiser of the final conference this Autumn in [Paris](#).
- BenchValue project (SUMFOREST Eranet): *A case study of chain of value benchmarking in douglas fir*  
The main aim is to compare forest wood chain with other materials.  
No questions.
- SUSTFOREST proposal: *Developing the exploitation of pine resin*  
No questions.
- Xylofutur cluster: *Products and materials from planted forests*  
New partnership for EFIATLANTIC that started this year, EFIATLANTIC is subcontracted by XYLOFUTUR to manage the forest theme. The tasks are carried over by Eduard Mauri.  
CO explained that in the past XYLOFUTUR has been criticised for not working at the European level. This collaboration with EFIATLANTIC will give them the European dimension they need. We started with a one-year contract that can be renewed.
- EHIA: *European Hardwoods Innovation Alliance*

- EIP AGRI Focus group : Sustainable Mobilisation of Forest Biomass

It is a focus group. Mini papers are being prepared and are going to be published. There is also a final report in preparation about the state of the art in relation to mobilisation. It will give some solutions and a short list of ideas for research innovation. It will also give recommendations and ideas for operational groups.

JMC proposed that the network of IEFC can be used to disseminate this report.

#### **GOVERNANCE** Peter Freer-Smith

- IUFRO Task Force on sustainable planted forests for a greener future  
PF-S listed positive outputs of this Task Force. It should be renewed for two more years. The next event will be in June in the UK during the “New Generation Forest” event.

#### **Communications** (Stephanie Hayes)

AK: it is better to have few newsletters but relevant and that people will read.

#### **Budget 2016-2017** (Claudia Antoniotti)

BM: the accountant fees for IEFC are still quite high. It will have to be renegotiated again with the accountant.

AK: what is the % of personnel cost that is covered by projects?

CO explained that the unit costs are covered 50% by projects and 50% by core funding.

AK: it is important to keep this balance because EFI should be mainly a coordination network for the benefits of its members, not competing with its own members when applying for projects.

#### **Discussion about the plantation forestry facility within the new EFI strategy**

In the coming months, EFIATLANTIC will have to position itself according to the new EFI 2025 strategy and organizational framework (CO). All participants support in principle the move from the status of Regional Office into a more visible facility and knowledge hub connected to action on a topic of European and global interest such as plantation forestry. However, the “facility” instrument is not so clear for everybody and needs further elaboration, and participants suggested to redefine and broaden the scope of the facility beyond planted forests to forest management in general.

#### **Conclusions and rapport moral** (Jean-Michel Carnus, IEFC president)

Last year was a very successful and positive year for EFIATLANTIC and the IEFC network with the launching and coordination of new transnational projects such as PLURIFOR and the development of international partnerships through task force on planted forests. In 2017, new proposals and initiatives are underway at EU level (H2020) and also national levels in relation with French national policy to boost forest innovation. We can be confident that the same positive balance will be achieved in 2017.

2018 will be a significant year for IEFC association, which was created in 1998 in Santiago de Compostela: it is proposed to organize, for the next annual meeting, a special event in Galicia or Portugal to celebrate 20 years of cooperation.

#### **Optional working groups on project proposals:** upcoming call under the ERA-NET COFUND “Forest Value”

This call is going to be launched during next Autumn towards the end of the calendar year 2017. The proposals will be submitted in two steps. The 1<sup>st</sup> step will be only an outline proposal. If the 1<sup>st</sup> proposal is accepted, then a full proposal will have to be written. We still have to wait for the publication of the call to see what topics will be covered and what we can propose.

We should be prepared to submit a proposal related to climate change adaptation to make the most of the existing REINFFORCE infrastructure