

Minutes
Joint EFIATLANTIC-IEFC Annual Meeting
Cité de l'Océan, Biarritz, France
14th June 2016

EFIATLANTIC - IEFC business meeting

EFI New Strategy by Marc Palahí, Director of EFI

The session started with Marc Palahi, director of EFI presenting the new EFI strategy. EFI will now focus on three main themes: bioeconomy, resilience and governance. EFI will work on these three main themes in order to achieve, at same time, EFI strategical goals: an ambitious European forest research and innovation area, Science-informed policies to address societal challenges and opportunities, and awareness in society of the importance of forests. This will be done through strategical activities: advocacy, research and foresight, knowledge sharing and networking. A business plan will be prepared for the implementation of this new strategy.

Discussion:

Arnaud Sergent asked if EFI was not afraid that forestry would become a subtheme in bio economy. Marc Palahí answered that EFI role was to have a leadership approach and present solutions, not to wait to what can happen.

Andreas Kleinchmit also agreed that science has changed and the forest sector is facing globalisation. EFI has very good experts on forestry and EFI role in bioeconomy is increasing.

Jean-Michel Carnus emphasized EFI role for sharing and transferring knowledge and at the same time explaining why forest-based bioeconomy is important. MP agreed and explained that this can be done through the media with a modern speech.

Report on 2015 activities and on-going projects by the EFIATLANTIC team

- Research projects: INTEGRAL and SIMWOOD
- Projects that just started: TREC, CARAVAN, GENTREE, MULTIRISK
- Projects submitted: PLURIFOR, Benchvalue
- Networking activities: IUFRO Task Force on planted forest, EVOLTREE, GEFF, Xylofutur
- Communications
- Infrastructures: FRISK-GO, and REINFFORCE

Discussion:

The Frisk-Go infrastructure will be the continuation of the FRISK-Go project. EFI is currently looking for funding for this infrastructure. The secretariat and the implementation of activities will be done from EFICIENT unit and the scientific coordination from EFIATLANTIC.

Budget 2015-2016

IEFC budget:

The IEFC budget has considerably decreased: there are no more projects coordinated by IEFC and staff is directly hired by EFI, and not anymore seconded by EFIATLANTIC.

Bill Mason remarked that the accounting expenses still remain extremely high compared to the budget that is now very reduced. This point must be corrected and discussed with the accountant.

EFIATLANTIC unit budget:

There is a good positive balance for EFIATLANTIC in 2015 and 2016. Most of the expenses for those two years go to human resources (five permanent positions plus one temporary position until July 2017), travel expenses, subcontracting and meeting costs. In 2015 EFIATLANTIC had a positive balance of 61078 euros which could be transferred to 2016. In 2016 EFIATLANTIC should have a positive balance.

IEFC rapport moral by Jean-Michel Carnus (Président of IEFC)

Jean-Michel Carnus gave a very positive report of 2015 activities and he wished success for the coming future. He reminded the three success stories of the year 2015 regarding the joint development of EFIATLANTIC unit and IEFC network on planted forests:

1/ The French state is ready to commit on long term with EFI signing the host country agreement. Doing so it recognizes the benefit and the added value of the activities conducted on planted forests by EFIATLANTIC unit.

2/ Thanks to the support of IEFC network, EFIATLANTIC funding is secured for 5 years with the Aquitaine regional council and in relation with forest risk facility.

3/ The success of the IUFRO task force coordinated by EFIATLANTIC and the international visibility it provides to Bordeaux RO on planted forest.

As a conclusion, as IEFC president, he is very happy of the latest development of the EFIATLANTIC unit, and wishes that IEFC association remains and expands its membership to support EFIATLANTIC activities on planted forests. Now that the host country agreement will be signed, new ways of supports can be explored with IEFC acting as a foundation, to facilitate targeted events, exchange of staff or students, or communication activities on planted forests. This fine tuning will have to be discussed with the IEFC board once the host country agreement is settled.

Working session on project opportunities

Andreas Kleinschmit presented the new European initiatives. He enhanced the importance and benefits of collaboration in projects and the added value that it can create. The H2020 programme is a very competitive one, but on almost all its topics we can find room for forestry. He also reminded the importance of the project's impacts for the evaluation of a project proposal, so it is crucial to involve stakeholders early in the development of collaborative projects proposals.

Christophe Orazio reminded that in INTERREG Atlantic area the topics could not allow to make a proposal matching with the REINFFORCE network as suggested by many partners.