



## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

on the occasion of the  
5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe  
5-7 November 2007, Warsaw, Poland

We, the Ministers responsible for forests in Europe declare the week of 20-24 October 2008 to be the **Pan-European Forest Week 2008**.

This week should increase the visibility of forests and the forest sector and raise awareness about their important contribution to the protection of the environment and the development of economy and society in Europe.

Building on the progress made in Europe towards sustainable forest management over last decades and the well established and effective regional cooperation to this end, this week would also give an opportunity for additional concerted efforts to promote sustainable forest management and to engage other sectors in a participatory dialogue on forest related issues of cross-sectoral nature.

The Pan-European Forest Week 2008, jointly prepared by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, European Forestry Commission and Timber Committee, will provide an umbrella and framework for a series of events and for different European actors, including the public and private sector and civil society.

We encourage governments, national and regional bodies and processes as well as stakeholders to engage in this effort and organize actions at all levels to communicate and to raise public awareness on the importance of forests and the forest sector for Europe.