

Dear Presidents, administrators, dear colleges, and friends,

## 1. **Pro Silva Annual Meeting**

Hereby we must announce that we have to postpone the **Pro Silva Annual Meeting in Luxembourg to 2022**. Due to the Corona restrictions we split our concept of the annual meeting to combine an intense excursion programme with the formal annual general meeting (AGM) and a lot of social events and informal talks into three aspects:

1. We will hold the Annual Meeting in **Luxembourg** as originally planned in **2022** (probably June)
2. We will plan a **formal annual general meeting with reports and election of board as a virtual meeting in June 2021**.
3. In addition, I will set up a **periodical virtual social meeting place** for all Pro Silva members and affiliates.

To give you some more insight into our considerations I pass on to you the **official statement of Pro Silva Luxembourg**:

*Due to the current Covid-19 situation in Luxembourg, we are not able to hold the planned Prosilva Annual Meeting in Luxembourg in June 2021. After the cancellation last year, this is all the more regrettable. Nevertheless, we are of the opinion that this is the only right decision. The ultimate goal is health for all of us. Furthermore, the annual meeting lives from the exchange of information and experiences on CCF-managed forest among friends. This social component cannot be cultivated this year. As our program is in place, we would be happy to welcome the Pro Silva family to Luxembourg in 2022. - All good things are 3! – Sincerely, Michel LEYTEM, Pro Silva Luxembourg*

And also, the **statement of Pro Silva Ireland**:

*Following consulting committee members, Pro Silva Ireland fully supports the proposal to both postpone the Annual Meeting Excursion in Luxembourg until 2022 and conduct the necessary business of PS via a virtual Annual Meeting in 2021. In support of our fellow members, Pro Silva Ireland wish to defer hosting this prestigious event until our colleagues in Luxembourg avail of the opportunity to showcase the fruits of their hard work and wonderful forests. We appreciate that this continued uncertainty must be causing great difficulty for the organising committee and the board members of Pro Silva.*

*Establishing a virtual Pro Silva Meeting Place would be a fantastic initiative. While it could never replace that wonderful feeling of meeting our friends in the splendour of a CCF managed forest, it would help reduce the feeling of isolation and enable us to share our experiences. Please let us know if we can assist with this venture.*

*Finally, I would like to extend gratitude to you and board of Pro Silva for continuing to work tirelessly on behalf of our members. - Kind regards, Liam BYRNE, Chairperson, Pro Silva Ireland*

## 2. **EU Forest Strategy – Public consultation**

Hereby I want to inform You and motivate You to participate at the public consultation about the new Forest Strategy of EU. This is open until April 19<sup>th</sup>. Pro Silva will also give an official answer as a EU registered NGO,

but it would give us more power if all of our member organisation also will fill in the questionnaire. In a surrounding where increasing demand from nature conservation organisation to set aside forest from management Pro Silva clearly promotes managed forests in a close to nature way to provide timber, ecosystem services and biodiversity to achieve climate mitigation and resilience in an integrated way. Please go to the following web site and fill in the forms.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12674-EU-Forest-Strategy-/public-consultation>

### **3. World Wood Day 2021 & 8<sup>th</sup> FOREST EUROPE Minister Conference**

As the chair of Pro Silva I received two invitations to important online events:

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March I will participate at to **World Wood Day 2021** as one of the keynote speakers. You may participate at this meeting via Zoom or Livestream (Youtube) under this link:

[http://www.worldwoodday.org/2021/regions\\_event/39](http://www.worldwoodday.org/2021/regions_event/39)

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_v3DHpUT-Rj2ob4BwMfgJYg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v3DHpUT-Rj2ob4BwMfgJYg)

I enclose the Symposium Booklet and the time schedule in CET. Those of you in other time zones please switch forth or back 1 hour or more. My presentation will be on Sunday morning at 10:00.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April, I will participate a panelist in the **Eighth FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference** (Online - Bratislava, the Slovak Republic) - "The Future We Want: The Forests We Need". This is a big honour for Pro Silva to participate in a meeting like this on highest political level as an observer. As far as I know this meeting is not public.

### **4. Literature**

In the last weeks, the ongoing discussion about forest, biodiversity and climate offered some interesting and important articles, that I pass on to You for your information:

- Betts et al 2021: Triad\_Biological Reviews
- Fahrig 2020: Why do several small patches hold more species than few large patches
- Schulze et al. 2021: Climate mitigation with forests

The team of Pro Silva is sorry that we can't have our physical meeting in Luxembourg this year. Hopefully, the vaccination progress and other measurements will give us more space in the next month. In case of a very positive development we may organize a short-term excursion meeting in late summer or autumn. In the meantime we wish health, good mood and positive impressions in the forests to all of You.

You are free to spread this message to your members.

Yours sincerely

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