Establishment of Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS)

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Forests and Invasive Species
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What are Invasive Species?
Forest invasive species – introduction and spread

- Increased travel
- Faster transportation
- Increased global trade

Increased risk of pest spread and establishment in new areas

Accentuated by climate change
European forests approximately 75% of the damage is caused through invasive species – insect pests, fungi, and other abiotic disturbances.
Invasive insects in Europe

(Roques et al. 2008) -
Regional forest invasive species networks

- **South Cone Countries**
  - Established 2008
  - 6 countries

- **NAFC**
  - Working group
  - 3 countries

- **NENFHIS**
  - Established 2007
  - 12 countries

- **FISNA**
  - Established 2004
  - 15 countries

- **APFISN**
  - Established 2008
  - 33 countries
The REUFIS Network

**June 2015** - participants at a European and Central Asian workshop for the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry identified need for a “platform” to tackle the shared problem of forest invasive species.

**September 2016** - FAO REU organized a “Forest Invasive Species in Europe and Central Asia” meeting in Belarus. Representatives from 23 countries from the region discussed establishment of a functional network.
The REUFIS Network

**September 2016 to October 2017** - Prof. Ferenc Lakatos of University of Sopron - interim Secretary of the Network to assist preparing the mandate through consultation and establishing the final network structure.

**March 2017** - the interim Secretary of the REUFIS introduced the Network at the EPPO meeting Panel on Quarantine Pests for Forestry and Phytosanitary Measures.
October 17-19- 2017 - Inaugural meeting of REUFIS will be held in Budapest, Hungary

The Focal points and Executive Committee headed by the Secretary will decide on the role and function of the committee, as well as determine the rotation of membership of the Executive committee (5-6 members)
REUFIS Network aims

- coordinate activities on forest invasive species
- enable sharing of information and experiences
- raise awareness in eradication, control and management of forest invasive species, sharing of research results
- early detection and monitoring strategies including taxonomic support
- provide a communication link for all levels within and between member countries.

Complementary for existing instruments; EPPO and others
Points for consideration

• Encourage countries to participate in the platform, on the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS), and contribute to the activities of this network to strengthen regional collaboration in relation to the work on forest invasive species in the region.

• Continue supporting the establishment of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and the implementation of its activities.
Thank you!

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