

Preface

Between 27 and 28 November 2007 the Second Meeting of Forest Protection and Phytosanitary Specialists was held in Vienna at the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (German abbr.: BFW). Increasing problems with native pests and diseases in many European countries were reviewed in connection with decreasing resources and a reduced number of specialists within these fields. Furthermore, the meeting aimed to bring together specialists from many European countries to discuss issues such as risk assessment, eradication programs, compilation of information, to propose and coordinate future activities, including research networks or common projects, possibilities of knowledge transfer, the mutual use of expensive laboratory equipment, and collections.

More than 41 experts from 12 European countries discussed actual forest protection problems, unknown abiotic and biotic damages in different tree species and the current situation about invasive species in their countries.

All participants agreed that this kind of meeting was very useful and should be repeated soon. Especially the possibility of quick dissemination of information on new problems and the actual forest protection and phytosanitary situation are of great value for all colleagues working in the same field.

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