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# System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)

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**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and  
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**  
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

# Questions SEMAFOR addressed:



L A S 2017

- What are the issue of concern with regard to sustainability in a given country?
- How are the issues of concern being addressed now?
- Combine common standards with understanding of diverse national circumstances
- Pilot study, as method untested in sensitive areas



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# Main principles of SEMAFOR



L A S 2017

- Structured around pan-European Criteria and Indicators
- Focus on “assessment” (i.e. significant, not only descriptive) indicators
- Common thresholds to identify possible areas of concern
- Dialogue with correspondents on:
  - Whether the problem is real; and
  - What action is being taken
- Transparency, objectivity



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- Data from pan-European questionnaire 2015
- Twenty countries (63% of Europe forest) participated
- Data for about 85% of assessment parameters
- Intense dialogue with national correspondents
- Reviewed by Metsä2013, team of specialists, working party, published 2016 (DP 66)
- *“Overall, taking account of the indicators recorded, the explanations given and level of thresholds agreed for the pilot study, there is no evidence of significant areas of concern with regard to sustainable forest management in the twenty countries which participated in the pilot study”*

# Conclusions (personal) from the pilot study

L A S 2017



- Feasibility of method confirmed
- Difficulty of identifying thresholds – need for consensus formation
- Facilitates benchmarking (esp. table page 56)
- Many lessons about indicator concepts, significance, strengths and weaknesses
- Possible to combine objective thresholds with variability of national circumstances, assuming dialogue and trust
- Might be useful for assessment part of SoEF2020



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# The joint session is invited to:

LAS 2017



- Review results, especially pilot application of SEMAFOR
- Decide on future development of the tool, including possible recommendation of its application in the next cycle of pan-European reporting



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**Thank you!**



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9 October 2017, Warsaw