

PressRelease

Brussels, 7 December 2011

Forestry winner in 2011 MEP Awards announced

For the very first time, a prestigious award for members of the European Parliament (MEP Awards) carried a forestry theme. This one-off award highlighted the International Year of Forests 2011 and it was awarded to MEP Kriton Arsenis.

Mr Arsenis (S&D Greece) was recognised for his work as parliament rapporteur for the green paper on forest protection and information in the EU. Additionally, he encouraged many useful discussions regarding forests, climate change and sustainability in the European Parliament, involving different stakeholders.

CEPF and CEPI proudly sponsored the special forestry category in the MEP Awards 2011. Congratulations go to Mr Arsenis for raising the profile of the sector in EU policy discussions. The MEP Awards are widely recognized as the showcase event in the Parliament calendar.

"This award recognises for the first time the work that the European Parliament does for protecting one of our most precious renewable resources: trees. Their environmental role, their social benefits, and their economic value." stated Teresa Presas, CEPI Director General.

"We see this as a great opportunity to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Forests and to raise the MEP's interest in forestry in general. We hope that the MEP Awards will create leadership and support in advancing the understanding and communicating the forest sector's issues in the Parliamentarian debates", underlined Dr Aljoscha Requardt, CEPF Secretary General.

The nominations were submitted by professional associations and interest groups working in EU affairs. The final voting was carried out among MEPs themselves in October. The winners of the award were announced at a ceremony on 29 November in Brussels.

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Note to the Editor

Link MEP awards and photos: <http://www.mepawards.eu/>

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries.

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making



organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry's achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the member's business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling and competitiveness in general. Through its 19 member countries (17 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 700 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1,000 paper mills. Together they represent 25% of world production.

Website: www.cepi.org

CEPF – The Confederation of European Forest Owners

CEPF is the umbrella association of national private forest owner organizations in the European Union. It works as the representative of family forestry by promoting the values of private property ownership and consolidating the concerns and proposals of 16 million family forest owners from 25 European countries. The CEPF targets its activities to all relevant Directorates General in the Commission, European Parliament and European Council, enabling family forest owners from the local level to voice their concerns and provide their knowledge to the European level.

Website: www.cepf-eu.org