

IFSA REPORT

ORMAN 2011: FORESTS IN A GREEN ECONOMY

IFSA students were invited by the FAO to attend the joint meeting of the 36th Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the 69th Session of the UNECE Timber Committee “Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy” that took place in Kemer, Antalya, Turkey from the 10th to the 14th of October of 2011. Four students were able to attend this meeting and benefitted from this great opportunity. These young foresters were: Yagmur Butun and Pinar Pamucku from Turkey, and Arturo Gueret from France, and Jakob Hörl from Germany.



IFSA students were seated between the Forest Stewardship Council and the Turkish Government, where they were able to follow keynote speeches and plenary sessions about the state of European forests. In general, they learned greatly about the meaning and implications of a “Green Economy” in the forestry context, and were particularly interested in the discussions around green jobs and the education of forest workers. Arturo Gueret explained the relevance of this experience for him: *“Inviting students was a good thing, because it provides them a first look to the realities of how UN decision-making processes work and what is the role of EU commissions.”* An event that highly motivated our students was the presentation of the best thesis award. For instance, Jakob Hörl explained that he was able to relate with the emotions and excitement that Honyu Ding (award winner from the University of Padova) must have felt by receiving this honour and by presenting her speech to such an important audience.

IFSA students also recognized the outstanding cooperation and networking that exists between governments, researchers and organizations in Europe, and they are hopeful and confident that this trend will continue in the future. Something extremely valuable of this meeting for Yagmur, Pinar, Arturo and Jakob was the opportunity to speak and interact with various conference participants and gain their insights and opinions on important issues related to the European forest sector. *“We hope that more students can get the opportunity to experience the same that we could experience.”*

IFSA and our delegation to this meeting extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the FAO for the invitation and for their financial support that enabled us to attend this important event.