COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 12 May 2010

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NOTE

from:	Austrian, German, Latvian and Swedish delegations
to:	Council
Subject:	Preparing forests for climate change: forest protection and information in the EU

Delegations will find attached a declaration of Austria, Germany, Latvia and Sweden which will be dealt with under "Any Other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 May 2010.

ANNEX

Declaration of
Austria, Germany, Latvia and Sweden

Preparing forests for climate change:
Forest Protection and information in the EU

We welcome the initiative of the Commission on forest protection.

We thank the presidency for putting this on the agenda of the Agriculture Council which oversees specifically the EU Forest Strategy, the EU Forest Action Plan and international forest policies.

From this point of view we wish to stress that forest protection is an integral part of sustainable forest management and that a holistic view on forests and their multiple functions needs to be maintained.

We also wish to underline that forest protection lies in the competence of the MS; any future EU activity in this field needs to show a clear added value; strengthening of already existing policies and instruments as well as coherence and coordination between existing forest relevant EU policies, including those on adaptation to climate change, biodiversity and renewable energies, need to have priority when examining further options.

With interest we are awaiting the results of the public consultations and ask the subsequent presidency to put the report of the Commission on this item again on the agenda of this Council.