After starting the procedure for restoration of private forests in Bulgaria in the year 2001, the private forests cooperation’s were as well restored on Smolyan district territory. Namely, the chairmen of these cooperations are among the first representatives of the private forests owners in our country who recognized the necessity for establishing professional organization in this field that would help the management, the economy, the cooperative association and the protection of private forests in Bulgaria, as well.

NAOPF "GOROVLADELETS" is founded in 2002 by seven cooperations. Today its membership includes 22 forest owner cooperation’s, one municipality, two associations, 2 companies and 15 individual private forest owners.

The reliable, transparent and regular dialogue between the public authorities and the appointed representatives of the private forest owners are an important prerequisite for the realization of economic, social and environmental potential of the private forest economy. The association of private forest owners is an important partner to achieve the objectives of the national forest policies. We actively and regularly participate in the national and the international programs, projects and seminars.

The national forest programs are a useful framework for implementation of the strategies.

Further are more issues that need to be discussed as soon as possible with the government administration:

- Monitoring of the implementation, updating, completing strategic documents and normative regulations that complement the new Forestry Act.

- Taking adequate real measures by the MAF for drastic reduce of the informal (so called "gray") sector in the sphere of wood cutting and the wood processing by presenting of the available terminal information at the NRA.

- Compensation for the economic losses caused by legal restrictions on the rights of ownership use, through appropriate tools and procedures (for example, tax exemptions, incentives, specific subsidies);

- Providing a legal basis for consolidation of magnifying of the forest estates (comassation), such as for example by supporting associations of private forest
owners, incentives and encouragement of developing the market of lands and forests, etc.;

- Adequate inclusion of the private forest owners in the decisions making process related to the forest policies. It is recommended that the government institutions pay particular attention to the resolution of the specific issues through magnification of the small-surfaced private forest industry.

Certification of the private forests. It was concluded that it is possible by applying good policy and good practice by all stakeholders to achieve a sustainable development (sustainable multifunctional nature managed economy) of the private forests. But this inevitably understands application of various support measures.

Today’s forest development requires implementation of forest control activities, corresponding to the new challenges and realities. The change in the forest administration functions, arising from the new ownership structure, requires increase of the capacity of the forest administration that will be committed to the non-state forests and to the improvement of the communication and the quality of the services toward the owners.

It should be noted that the forest institution is in a process of development, and its transformation is a prerequisite for meeting the forest’s owner needs in a better way. The changes incorporated in FA, RFAI and the other legal documents regulating the private forests make a step forward in their more effective and more successful management, thus ensuring a management that is in conformity with the environment.

Chairman:

/Eng. Aneliya Pocheunkska /