

First European Chainsaw Certificates to be issued in Summer 2011

BRUSSELS October 2010 – This 6th and 7th October representatives from various organisations involved in activities and training in forestry and natural environment from all over Europe gathered in Brussels to discuss the necessary steps to implement the European Chainsaw Certificate (ECC).



With financial support from the European Lifelong Learning Programme (Leonardo da Vinci) a team of eight organisations has led the process of developing the ECC to a Europe-wide acknowledged “**chainsaw driving licence**”. Actual results were presented to participants from 15 European countries which represent a wide range of **professionals in forestry and environment**. As a result of this project **Common European chainsaw standards** have been set which are based on **analysis and comparison of training programmes** in various European countries. Assessment techniques and requirements for a **credible certification system** are already widely developed and need further refinement.



The participants unanimously appreciated to find a firm organisational structure to manage and control this certificate under the name **European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council** (EFESC). Since 2009 EFESC is acting with the core group from several European countries (Leonardo partnership) as a de facto association. This will be transformed into a legal entity in March 2011, when a wide range of stakeholders and professional organisations will be invited to contribute to the EFESC with their membership. Subsequently a **secretariat** will be established to offer a **central information point** for anyone who is dealing with **labour activities in the outdoors** and would like to **improve his/her skills or competences or have them certified**. In mid term EFESC aims at hosting more competence certificates, particularly the European Certificate of Competences for Forestry Contractors (ConCert, see www.eduforest.eu)

The **8th International meeting in Brussels** produced some interesting results: establishment of a sound **financial plan** for the longer term development of EFESC (beyond the project end date), revue and refinement of an accreditation **handbook for national certification bodies**, establishment of a core team to develop the **legal entity of EFESC for constitutional voting** in Spring 2011 and further refinement on auditing requirements of the chainsaw assessment process and pre-conditions to maintain quality safety standards.

The **next international meeting** is set on **16-17th March in Brno, Czech Republic**. The central theme will be the establishment of EFESC and National Agency accreditations.



Contact: If you would like more information about the product European Chainsaw Certificate, the organisation EFESC or are interested in joining the project, please contact: info@europeanchainsaws.eu or check it out on www.europeanchainsaw.eu otherwise contact the Project Manager directly on billy@billyrobb.freereserve.co.uk



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