

PREPSYS

SAVE THE DATE!

Dear Colleagues,

This is a first announcement for the Conference *Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer, two major tree-killing pests*, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 1-4 October 2018.

The conference will focus on the threats to European forests from two tree-killing pests, the emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, a buprestid native to SE Asia and bronze birch borer (BBB), *Agrilus anxius*, which is native to North America. EAB has invaded and had a significant impact in North America and European Russia, causing massive tree mortality.

Whilst there is considerable research activity and dissemination of information in North America, there has been relatively little input to assessing the 'state of the art' in a specific European context and, particularly, to increase awareness and heighten readiness for what now seems to be an inevitable westward progression of the pest from its advancing front in Russia. The conference will bring together expertise from a wide range of countries, representing the native and invaded ranges of the two pests. Experience gained in both native and invaded locations will provide focus on the inter-disciplinary nature of dealing with invading pests. Ecological aspects are clearly important in developing understanding of pest biology but also interactions with trees in a mix of environments and, increasingly, the social and economic consequences of tree loss in both economic and amenity contexts. There will be a number of internationally acknowledged, invited speakers from North America, Asia and Russia who will present the state of knowledge on these two pest insects emphasising, research, management, policy and socio-economic dimensions. There will also be scope for a limited number of submitted oral presentations as well as a poster session.

By bringing together a wide range of disciplines – we want to bring together researchers, forest protection and phytosanitary specialists, administrators and policy makers – synthesising current knowledge and identifying gaps, the conference will provide an invaluable opportunity to inform development and optimise current and future preparedness for these important tree-killing pests.

Papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the journal *Forestry*, with submission of written papers by the end of December 2018.

Save the date for your participation in this exciting conference! More information is to follow.

Sincerely,

Hugh Evans, Mariella Marzano and Gernot Hoch

Organisers of the conference
Vienna, 29th January, 2018



Conference: Preparing Europe for invasion by the beetles emerald ash borer and bronze birch borer, two major tree-killing pests
Time: 1-4 October, 2018
Venue: BFW – Austrian Forest Research Centre, Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, 1131 Vienna, Austria
Organisers: Hugh Evans (UK), Mariella Marzano (UK) and Gernot Hoch (Austria)
Hugh.Evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk / Mariella.Marzano@forestry.gsi.gov.uk / gernot.hoch@bfw.gv.at
Registration fees: € 160 (covering refreshment and lunches)
Publication of proceedings: Special issue of the journal *Forestry*

*This conference is sponsored by the **OECD Co-operative Research Programme.***

www.oecd.org/agriculture/crp

Co-funding is being provided by the UK government Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

*It is an activity within the **EUPHRESKO** project "Risk-based strategies to prepare for and manage invasive tree borers – Pest risk evaluation and pest management systems" (PREPSYS)*

www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/prepsys .