

EDITORIAL

AT THE END OF 2022

As in all the years preceding this one, we have tried to be up-to-date and express our thoughts not only on Croatian forestry but also on European and world forestry. The dynamics of various changes that are taking place on Planet Earth is increasingly affecting Croatian forests and forestry. This topic was discussed in several of our editorials. Thus, the same topic of energy appeared in the editorials of issue 3-4/2022 under the title “Do we use biomass as an energy source? If so, how do we use it?” and of issue 7-8/2022 entitled “Why do we lag behind in the green transition and energy independence?” Both headlines ended with a question mark, but the questions raised in the texts are still without answers. That this topic has been relevant for a long time can be deduced from the fact that it was already relevant in 2010. After all, the Croatian Forestry Association founded its section in 2005 under the name of Croatian Biomass Association as early as 2005. Through its activity of 17 years, the section has played a pioneering role in clarifying the importance of and educating about the use of the resources from our forests. The intention was to direct the Republic of Croatia towards reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy independence and climate neutrality.

The editorial in issue 5-6/2022 referred to the 15th World Forestry Congress held at the beginning of May in South

Korea. The congress was held under the motto “Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests”. One of the conclusions read as follows: “Forests transcend political, social and environmental boundaries and are vital for biodiversity and the carbon, water and energy cycles at a planetary scale.” Prompted by past bad experience in the application of various declarations at the global level, we can only hope that mankind will finally realise that time for a more adequate attitude towards the planet is increasingly running out.

Issue 9-10/2022 focused on the local topic “Forests in the Service of Decentralisation and Demographic Recovery of Croatia”. While the population in the words is growing, the Republic of Croatia is undergoing the opposite trend of population ageing and decline. Europe, being an increasingly old continent, is experiencing the same problem. We believe that our forests provide an opportunity to reverse the negative depopulation trend and the growing deterioration of rural areas.

Let us hope that the editorials to come will bring us brighter tones. In this light, we say goodbye for this year. We wish all readers of Forestry Journal a pleasant holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023.

Editorial Board