STAATSMINISTERIUM
FÜR UMWELT UND
LANDWIRTSCHAFT

Freistaat
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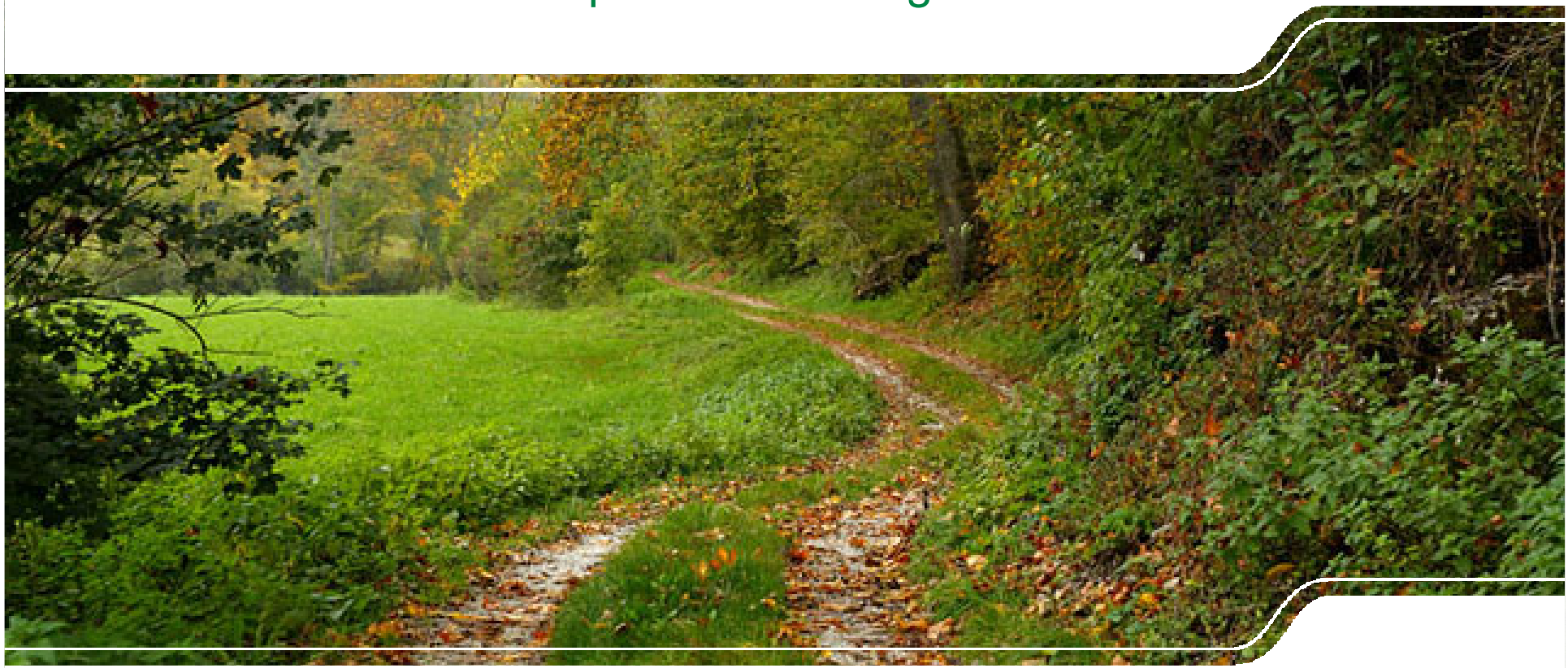
Greeting Alfons Weiß

Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry,
Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection



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Greeting Alfons Weiß

Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry, Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection

Dear Professor Makeschin, dear Mrs. Ogbuigwe, dear Dr. Schneider, dear Dr. Fürst, ladies and gentlemen,

it is a pleasure for me to welcome you as appreciated guests here in the Free State of Saxony. And I am glad that our capital Dresden is the first host of the conference RegioResources 21 series.

The today´s event is the celebratory starting point of the European Land-use Institute.

In the next three days, you will discuss intensively – and probably also sometimes controversially on (1) the actual development in land-use management and planning, (2) conflicting land-uses and decision support tools as well as (3) models and the question how to integrate planning actors.

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Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry, Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection

The Free State of Saxony is well chosen as venue for the conference and as location for the European Land-use Institute. Research on and teaching of the whole range of topics in land-use management and planning has a high value in our Federal State.

Research institutions such as the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig-Halle, the German Biomass Research Centre in Leipzig, the Centre For International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management on the one hand and our practice oriented and interdisciplinary research at the Saxonian Ministry of Environment and Agriculture carried out by the Federal Research Institute for Environment, Agriculture and Geology as well as the Forestry Competence Centre of the Saxonian State Forest Enterprise on the other, ensure that Saxony is leading on national scale – or let me say even on European scale – in practice oriented land-use research and research transfer into practice.

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Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry, Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection

This beneficial starting situation can take even more profit from an intensified sector-crossing integration of land-use as it is intended by the European Land-use Institute. And I personally expect from the European Land-use Institute important impulses for inter-sectoral research in agriculture and forestry but also for international land-use research activities.

In future, land-use will be confronted to challenges such as adaptation to Climate Change, sustainable provision of energy and changes in the demographical structure of human population. One already visible result of these changes on global scale is the increasing competition for land considering for instance the necessary increase of global food production, the intensified production of renewables for industrial use and energy production, the growing demand for settlements, infrastructure and economic growth and the need to provide habitats and refugial areas for flora and fauna

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Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry, Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection

Ladies and gentlemen,

from my viewpoint, sustainable land-use means (1) an increased search for and use of sector-crossing synergies, (2) intensified reflection on and advertising of concepts for the multiple use of land and for creating multiple benefit from the use of land, and (3)fortified development and application of sustainable strategies for an intensified, but ecologically sensitive use of land.

Here, we should not forget that the lion´s share of today´s environmental services – often called ecosystem services – is a result of the already practiced professional and sustainable land-use and that this land-use is mostly practiced by private land owners.

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Deputy Department Head Agriculture and Forestry, Head of the Section Crop Products & Agricultural Resource Protection

Land-users, politicians and society expect from you as scientists to develop applicable strategies for an integrated sustainable land-use, they expect from you to find pathways for an advanced land-use planning and they expect finally practical recommendations how to realize your findings in day-to-day-business.

I personally expect furthermore, that you discuss these aspects together with the responsible persons, i.e. with the land-users, local and regional authorities and administrations.

I expect also that you communicate your research results intensively with representatives from land-use practice. And finally, I would like to remind you not to forget to integrate the local and regional citizens in land-use research and the resulting planning and decision making processes.

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It is not possible to make benefit from research results without the dialogue between science and practice and without the resulting mutual understanding.

We should enter this dialogue now and strengthen it in the upcoming years. This corresponds exactly to the mission of the European Land-use Institute.

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LANDWIRTSCHAFT

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Ladies and gentleman,

before I end up, let me invite you warmly to enjoy our capital Dresden and its many attractions. I feel that – after a laborious conference - nothing is more relaxing than a short trip to Brühl´s terrace along the procession of the Wettin rulers or a visit of the Church of our Lady and the King´s residence.

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LANDWIRTSCHAFT

Freistaat
SACHSEN

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I trust that you – dear guests – will experience an interesting conference and an exciting stay here in Dresden.

And I hope that you may tell something nice after your return about our lovely capital Dresden.

I wish the European Land-use Institute, all it´s co-workers, members and partners a good start-up and a successful cooperation and development.

I also wish you dear guests many inspiring discussions and finally, I wish you all best success at the first RegioResources 2011.

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Thank you very much!