

## **Minutes SocEcon group meeting (Charquemont)**

Main discussion points:

### **1. State of work in the countries**

- In Switzerland, Germany and Scotland work on socio-economics has not started, yet. Work is expected to start next year.
- In France and Finland some work has already been carried out. France: literature and market review and interviews at two field sites. Finland: questionnaire with 25 specialists from different interest groups

### **2. Main topics to be included and discussed in WP1 and structure/outline for WP1**

- Important peat use: energy production (e.g. Finland), horticultural and processed products (e.g. Germany)
- Important alternative peat land use: agricultural activities, hunting, forestry and protected areas and tourism (e.g. Switzerland, France)
- Agreement to divide the socio-economic work for WP1 in two parts. First part, which will be carried out in all countries (common part), will consist of an overview on peat and peat land use focussing on an economic market review. Based on the common first part, the second part will consist of country specific studies going into more detail on certain specific aspects (social and/or economic).
- The common part should include information about regional/spatial distribution of peat land, policy framework and economic importance of peat and alternative uses of peat land in the different countries.
- In the second part different methodologies/approaches will be pursued such as interviews (France), questionnaire (Finland), economic analysis and evaluation (Germany Switzerland and Scotland)

### **3. Timetable and next steps**

- Draft outline for the first part of WP1 will be sent around for comments by mid November (GS)
- If possible, abstract for a discussion paper will be sent to the peat land congress in Finland next year before 30 November (all)
- Agreement on common structure/outline for the first part of WP1 by end of November (all)
- Decisions who and for what period and what context (e.g. master thesis) is doing the work in the first of WP1 in the different countries should be made this year
- Work on first part of WP1 should be finished in all countries by May 2004 in order to be discussed during the meeting in Tampere (all)
- Work on the second part of WP1 should start (latest) by August 2004 (all)
- WP1 should be completed by January 2005 (all)