

## **Seminar about peatland management in the context of GHG emission inventory**

Ladies and gentlemen,

In our everyday work we should always remember the necessity to choose measures for the development of national economy in line with the increasing need to improve environmental quality and bio-diversity and climate change mitigation.

Today's meeting is dedicated to the discussion on the possibilities for the recultivation of peatlands and Latvia's and Norway's experience as well as greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands. The aim is to exchange knowledge and best practices in the field of peatland management and analysis of related greenhouse gas emission reduction potential.

Speaking of peatland management and peat in particular we have to admit that this is a topic with significant polarism. Peatlands are rich and beautiful ecosystems but peat can give us a very good quality material for soil improvement. Peatlands are important in the context of sustainable land management system. Peat is the indigenous national fuel that can be obtained and used in country. Peatlands may contribute to greenhouse gas emission reduction, but peat management also is a source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore it is the time for Latvia to decide which are the most important and efficient actions and implement them to ensure the fulfilment of the climate change mitigation targets and to give the contributions in the global climate change mitigation. And then we have to implement a strong monitoring and reporting system that includes the best knowledge and the most accurate estimations to follow our progress.

I believe that these two days will increase the knowledge of Latvia's national LULUCF experts, experts that are or will be working on peatland management practice and peatland management strategy development and will enhance the cooperation among Latvia's institutions involved in peatland management as well as expand the cooperation between Latvian and Norwegian forest and environmental experts.

And so I thank you all for the participation in this discussion and I truly wish all of us successful and effective work together.