



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 30

EUROPARC announces new President, Ignace Schops

A new Leader; a New vision for Europe's Protected Areas

Killarney, September 30 – EUROPARC Federation, the largest NGO for European Protected Areas, yesterday announced the appointment of Ignace Schops from Belgium, as the new EUROPARC president. As director of the Belgian NGO Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland (RLKM), member of the EU chapter of Club of Rome and vice president of the largest nature conservation organization in Flanders, Natuurpunt Mr. Schops brings more than 20 years of relevant environmental and governance experience to the role.

Following his election Mr. Schops said, *"I am so proud! Representing the biggest network in Europe is a privilege for me. I will take the responsibility and the leadership to prove EUROPARC Federation is the leading organization in pan-Europe, related to Protected Areas, the natural and cultural heritage, sustainable tourism and transnational cooperation"*. He continued stating he was eager to *"help EUROPARC become the biggest, strongest and most friendly umbrella network in Europe and a standard for the European policy"*.

Almost 300 EUROPARC members are meeting these days at their annual conference in Killarney, Ireland hosted by the by Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with the support of the Irish Heritage Council and Coillte. At this, the largest annual gathering of Protected Areas practitioners in Europe, EUROPARC members, also elected a new council and adopted a new EUROPARC strategy, in which the Federation committed to work for our natural and cultural heritage, to improve and champion the policy and practice of Protected Area management, in order to deliver sustainable nature, valued by people.

With a new Leader and a new Vision for European Protected Areas, the EUROPARC Federation through its members, is confident it can deliver natural solutions to the challenges facing our natural heritage and ensure that society really understands the Value of Nature.

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(293 words)





Notes for editors:

About the EUROPARC Federation:

EUROPARC Federation is an independent, non-governmental organisation whose membership brings together organisations responsible for the management of most of Europe's protected areas. Currently it represents over 370 members in 36 countries. These include protected areas, governmental departments, NGO's and businesses who themselves manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.

- Interview with Mr. Schops available on request.
- High quality photos available on request.



Contact

Dea Mijakovac

Communications and Marketing Officer

E: d.mijakovac@euoparc.org

S: dea.mijakovac.euoparc

T: +49 (0)941 599 35 983

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