

## Nature is our Business.

### BioEUParks Project celebrates the EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS 2015

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**WHAT:** European Day of Parks 2015

**WHEN:** 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2015

**WHERE:** All over Europe, in national nature and regional parks

**WHY:** To show that looking after Europe's nature is good for people and good for business. To highlight the environmental, social and economic value of Europe's natural places.

#### European Day of Parks - A pan-European celebration day for Protected Areas

*"Nature is not the problem for Europe's economy, it is the ultimate solution. We need to protect our environmental investments and natural assets",* reminded Ignace Schops President of the EUROPARC Federation - Goldman Prize Winner, Ashoka Fellow and Climate Leadership Corps member.

He stated that *"Europe's Protected Areas make up the repository, the bank of biodiversity and cultural heritage. Across Europe Protected Areas are encouraging sustainable businesses, working with nature."*

On **European Day of Parks 2015**, In more than 20 countries across Europe on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, national parks, nature reserves and other Protected Areas open their doors to visitors on the European Day of Parks 2015.

For this occasion the Partners from **the BioEUParks Project** will organize activities around biomass and show how the local supply of biomass from sustainably managed forests and agricultural residues can contribute to climate change mitigation and strengthen local economies at the same time. In promoting an efficient and sustainable biomass supply chain they will show that **Nature is our Business**.

More than 80 Protected Areas are celebrating and raising the profile of the value and benefits of all Nature for everyone. This year hundreds of special activities will demonstrate how nature is good for business. Across Europe around this one day, thousands of people will share their love of nature and the local culture. From Iceland to Italy and from Finland to France, you will find special natural market places, showcasing all local products, or joint promotions with sustainable businesses, highlighting the benefits of working with Nature.

This exciting calendar of events for the European Day of Parks is now available on the EUROPARC [website](#).

**Notes for editors:****About the European Day of Parks**

*European Day of Parks, launched by the EUROPARC Federation, has been celebrated every year since 1999 in Protected Areas throughout Europe. European Day of Parks aims at bringing people closer to nature and raising public awareness on the importance of the natural beauty preserved in Protected Areas and the importance of conservation and sustainable management of those places. Events on and around the 24<sup>th</sup> of May present a colorful range how people feel passion and love for nature.*

**About the EUROPARC Federation**

*EUROPARC is the umbrella organization for Protected Areas throughout Europe. The aim of the network is to facilitate the increase of new partners throughout Europe by providing interested parks with information on the most important aspects of a Protected Area Management. EUROPARC Federation is an independent, non-governmental organization whose membership brings together organizations 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.*

**About the BioEUParks Project**

*BioEUParks is a Project applied under IEE Altener Programme, addressing the 2012 proposed priority 'Solid biomass'. The Project is going to contribute to increase the local supply of biomass from sustainably managed forests and agricultural residues, aiming to develop an efficient and sustainable biomass supply chain in 5 European Nature Parks, and promoting short chains and small-scale installations.*

*This can be realized due to an approach promoting sharing of objectives and co-planning with local key actors. For this reason, the project aims also to develop a methodology of encounter, discussion, sharing and co-planning for overcome the social conflicts that can born in occasion of Significant structural interventions.*

*Furthermore the project is going to mainstream the experience done and improve the skills of Nature Park managers, engineers and technicians on the matters dealt with the project.*

**Interview opportunities**

EUROPARC President: Mr Ignace Schops (Dutch, English),  
EUROPARC Executive: Director Ms Carol Ritchie (English),  
EUROPARC Managing Director: Mr Federico Minozzi (Italian, French, English).

Interviews with individual parks on request / Photos are available on request.

**Contact**

EUROPARC Communications Officer: [Anthony Luttmann](#) (French and English)

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