

30
years of
commitment

Growing Europe's resilience, sustainability and prosperity with its forests

Sustainably and actively managed forests are supporting European climate action, biodiversity, economic growth, rural livelihoods, and social well-being. European forest owners contribute to strengthening Europe's competitiveness and resilience in rapidly changing climate and geopolitical conditions.

European forest owners call for a renewed partnership with EU policy makers to take a holistic approach, in securing a long-term policy framework that recognises the importance of forestry and the forest-based value chain.



European forest owners and their representatives commit to:

- ✓ Continuing to take care of forests to hand them over healthy and resilient to future generations.
- ✓ Fostering synergies across the forest-based value chain to strengthen the bioeconomy.
- ✓ Continuing to take an integrative approach to biodiversity.
- ✓ Maintaining and creating jobs while strengthening social cohesion in rural areas.
- ✓ Building partnerships and participating in voluntary conservation approaches.
- ✓ Strengthening cooperation with the scientific community.
- ✓ Providing expertise, knowledge, and support as an Observer to Forest Europe.

We invite EU policy makers to:

- ✓ Value Europe's diversity of forests, forest owners, and practices.
- ✓ Recognise forest owners as rightsholders, with the freedom to make their own management choices.
- ✓ Consider forest owners as partners and involve them meaningfully in EU policy design.
- ✓ Trust Member States' competence in forest management, in line with the subsidiarity principle.
- ✓ Place the bioeconomy high on the EU political agenda.
- ✓ Ensure equal attention to carbon sequestration, storage, and substitution.
- ✓ Provide strong support to Forest Europe as the main European forest policy platform.
- ✓ Support science, innovation, and knowledge exchange.



What partnership is needed in the short term?

EU policy needs a change in perspective to enable forests and the forest sector to fully contribute to EU objectives: from one-dimensional protection to active, multidimensional management, and from mandatory rules to a greater reliance on voluntary commitments.

In practice, this means working together on:

Updating

- ✓ the EU Forest Strategy, to align with current EU priorities.
- ✓ the EU Deforestation Regulation to make it simpler.
- ✓ nature protection legislation, to ensure climate resilience.

Strengthening

- ✓ the Sustainable Forest Management concept within the Forest Europe framework.
- ✓ the role of primary biomass suppliers in the EU Bioeconomy Strategy implementation.

Building

- ✓ higher value for carbon substitution in the CRCF and LULUCF legislation.
- ✓ carbon and nature credit systems that are attractive for forest owners.
- ✓ concrete support measures within the EU climate resilience framework.

Growing
stronger
together for
Europe's
forests



Confederation of European Forest Owners
Rue du Luxembourg 66
1050, Brussels
E-mail: office@cepf-eu.org
www.cepf-eu.org





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