EU Forest Strategy – supporting sustainable and multifunctional forestry

Unit D.4 Environment, climate change, forestry and bio-economy
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

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Forests
- Healthy and leisure activities
- Jobs and rural development
- Flood management
- Soil stabilisation
- Habitat for species, conserving nature
- Carbon sequestration and storage
- Production of renewable raw materials
- Protection of humans and infrastructure
- Provision of food
- Wind deflector
- Air freshening
- Water collector and filtration
Is a Strategy for forests and the forest sector supporting multifunctional forests

• While there is no Common Forest Policy in the EU Treaty, forests are a vital part of several community policies

• EU Forests Strategy ensures holistic view of forests and all related policies

• The guiding principles of the strategy are
  
  • (i) **sustainable forest management** and the multifunctional role of forests,
  
  • (ii) **resource efficiency**, optimising the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation and

  • (iii) **global forest responsibility**, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.

• Provides for a definition of Sustainable forest management
• Sets a **2020 objective** to ensure and demonstrate that:

  • All forests in the EU are managed according to sustainable forest management (SFM) principles
  • The EU contribution to promoting SFM and reducing deforestation globally is strengthened.

• The Strategy engages the Commission, Member States and relevant stakeholders to work together towards a common vision and a coherent planning and implementation of forest-related policies.

• EU Forest Strategy Multiannual Implementation Plan

• The Commission and Member States, within their respective competences, will ensure the strategy’s implementation and follow-up

• Report on Mid-term Review published in December 2018
Some key messages

- Majority of MAP actions implemented as planned (i.e. about 90% completed or ongoing); 10% pending, some delays.

- CAP, the main source of EU funding for the forest sector. CAP forestry measures support many Strategy objectives in 24 MS (90% RDPs).

- Fostering competitiveness of the sector, bio-energy and green economy.

- Climate change and importance of Sustainable forest management for climate mitigation and adaptation.
Some key messages

• International developments, e.g. Paris Agreement, discussions on a Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe, Deforestation, etc.

• Coordination and cooperation, through Standing Forestry Committee, Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork, Expert Group on Forest-based Industries, EU civil protection mechanism - on forest fires prevention,

• EU funds aligned in coherence and synergy to support objectives and priorities of the Strategy (CAP, ESIF, LIFE, Research, Development cooperation)

• The report shows the Strategy is fit for informing new policy developments, referring to many of them: CAP reform, 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (LULUCF, adaptation, RED), EU Civil protection mechanism, EU Bioeconomy Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, Action Plan Deforestation...
Some needs

- Interaction of forests and trees with urban and peri-urban areas and communities.

- Additional experience and exchanges of good practices in Rural Development, mitigation and adaptation actions and their synergies.

- Deploy innovation and scale-up the role of forest-based biomass, whilst protecting the environment and ensuring circularity – role of revised EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

- Enhance the role of FMPs in achieving biodiversity targets and support the provision of ecosystem services.

- A strengthened framework to disseminate R&I project results and reinforce capitalisation of innovation along value chains to support competitiveness.

- Further work on forest harmonized information (FISE)
Conclusions

• Significant progress towards 2020 objectives

• Substantial progress implementing the activities addressing priority areas and strategic orientations.

• A valid tool to serve multiple purposes that sometimes can be perceived as contradictory.

• Growing demands and pressures might require more efforts and commitment for coordination, cooperation, expert involvement, including across sectors and between the Commission, Member States and other stakeholders.

• Better communicating needed, for ensuring strong societal support for sustainable forest management.
Thank you for your attention

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