



The EU Forest strategy – towards a mid-term Review

*Main challenges for the future of forest management
in the EU*

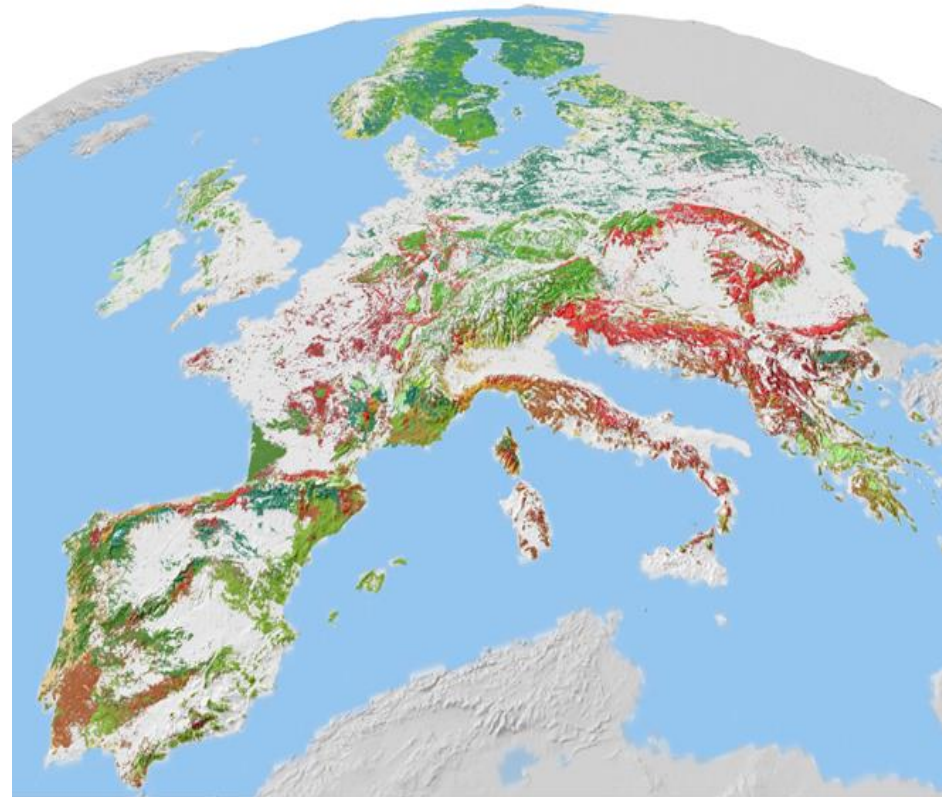
Intergroup meeting

23 January 2018

EU Forests



- ✓ **Forest and other wooded land:** 180 million ha (42% of total EU land)
- ✓ **Ownership:** 40% public and 60% private (around 16 million of private owners)
- ✓ **Natura 2000:** 50% of total Natura 2000 network in forests
- ✓ **Felling:** 60-70 % of the net annual increment (annual growth)
- ✓ **Certification:** around 50% certified



EU Forest-based sector - increasing demands



Forest-based industries:

- 3.5 million **jobs**, €5000 billion of annual **turnover**
- 90% of wood as **raw material** comes from the EU, remaining 10%: Russia, neighbouring countries , North America



Forest bioenergy:

- Around 50% of total EU renewable energy consumption
- Most imports (mainly pellets) from Canada, USA and Russia
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Emerging bio-based industries:

Wood is considered as an important source of raw material (green chemicals, viscose, bioplastics, ...)

Non-wood products: Cork, resins, medicinal plants, mushrooms, truffles, game, nuts, berries...

Services: protection of soil, air purification, water quality, recreation...



EU Forest Strategy



- ✓ Stress the multifunctional character of EU forests and the importance of sustainable forest management to ensure balanced delivery of functions and benefits.
- ✓ A holistic view of forest management that covers the multiple benefits of forests and addresses the whole forest value-chain.
- ✓ Integrate internal and external action (i.e. domestic and international forest-related policies)

2020 OBJECTIVE

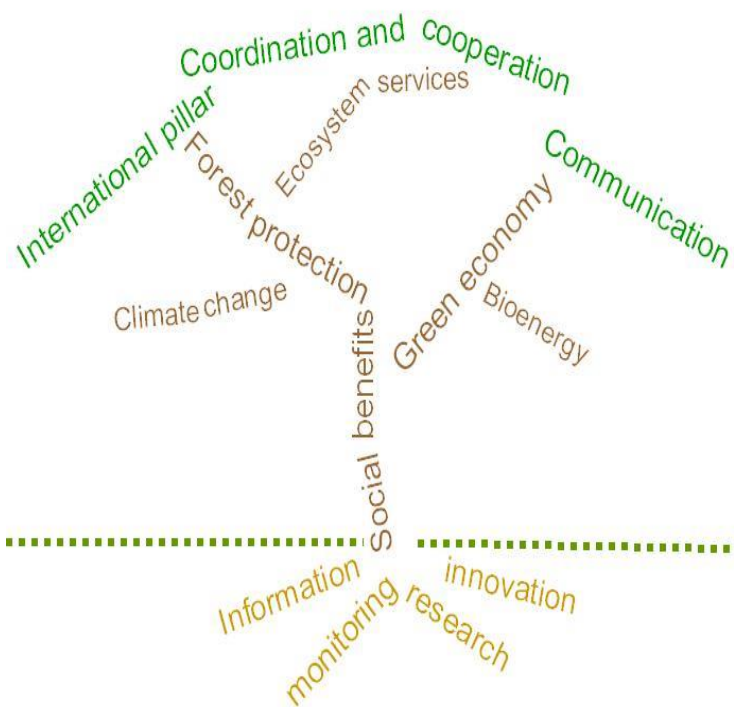
To ensure and demonstrate that:

- 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 .

8 linked priority areas



European Commission



COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

Working together

Forests from a global perspective

CONTRIBUTING TO MAJOR SOCIETAL OBJECTIVES

Supporting our rural and urban communities

Fostering the competitiveness and sustainability of forest-based industries, bioenergy and the wider green economy

Forests and climate change

Protecting forests and enhancing ecosystem services

IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Forest information and monitoring

Research and innovation

The Forest MAP



- ✓ **Concrete list of actions for the period 2015-2020** (actions, actors, target date and expected outcome)

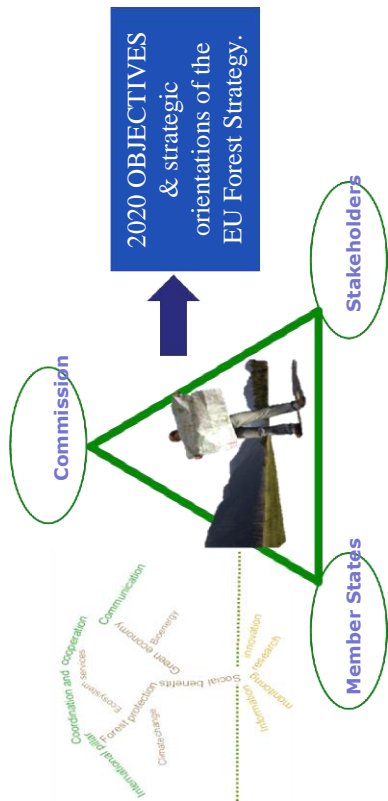
- ✓ **Key priorities highlighted**

- ✓ **Priorities for the work of the Commission services also identified.**

- ✓ **Annual working plan** of the Standing Forestry Committee and work programme of the Expert Group on F-BI, linked to the Forest MAP

- ✓ **Council and Parliament** to be **informed** on progress made (presentation to COMAGRI on 5/9/2015)

- ✓ **Mid term review** of the EU Forest Strategy **by 2018**





Review of the EU Forest Strategy

- *The Strategy stipulates that a review will be carried out by 2018 to assess progress in its implementation.*
- *The MAP states that the review of the Strategy will help determine priorities in the subsequent period.*

A study has been launched to support the Review of the EU Forest Strategy.

- *It will build the knowledge base for the review by gathering, collating and analysing relevant information from the European Commission, Member States and other relevant sources.*



EU FOREST Strategy review - Objectives

- Review current implementation status, **covering the eight priority areas and their strategic orientations**,
 - considering the actions and priorities for the Commission services in 2015-2017 in the Forest MAP
 - Contributing to defining priorities for the subsequent period.
 - Taking into account the Council conclusions, the European Parliament's own-initiative report, and the Opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- Assess progress towards objectives, in the light of the assessment made and taking into account the evolved policy context, identifying, to the extent feasible, any remaining gaps and shortfalls.



Review - Evolved policy context

Global and pan-European levels

- Forest Europe process and consideration of LBA
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015, in force 11/2016)
- COP 13 to the Convention on Biodiversity (12/2016),
- The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs,
- The UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (01/2017).

EU level

- Commission's ten priority areas for action,
- the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (including the proposals for a Regulation on LULUCF and the recast of the Renewable Energy Directive),
- The Action Plan on Nature, People and the Economy (07/2017).
- Evaluation of implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan (2003-2014) and review of implementation of the EU Timber Regulation.



Review - Evolved policy context

Policy work in progress

- Review of the EU Timber Regulation,
- Review of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy,
- The Circular Economy Action Plan
- The discussions on the future of the **Common Agricultural Policy**

Review – Tentative schedule

- Support study contract signed 19/12/17
- Discussions with SFC March and June 2018
- Final report September 2018
- Findings presented to EU Forest Directors November 2018
- SWD – adopted by December 2017

Thank you for your attention!



SFM

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest>

Governance – Working together



- **Implementation** by Commission & MS
- **Stakeholder involvement**
- **Standing Forestry Committee** plays key role to reinforce links with related EU policies
- **Coordination** of sectoral policies & ***cooperation with other committees and fora***
- Identification of areas in which MS should advance and cooperate further
- **Funding**: Rural development, LIFE+, H2020, Development funds