



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

FORESTS:

Harnessing high societal and economic potentials
in a complex EU policy context

The EU Forest Strategy mid-term review as a chance

Dr. Lukas Giessen (EFI), Lukas.Giessen@efi.int

Dr. Bernhard Wolfslehner (BOKU), bernhard.wolfslehner@boku.ac.at

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EU forest-based sector's societal & economic significance

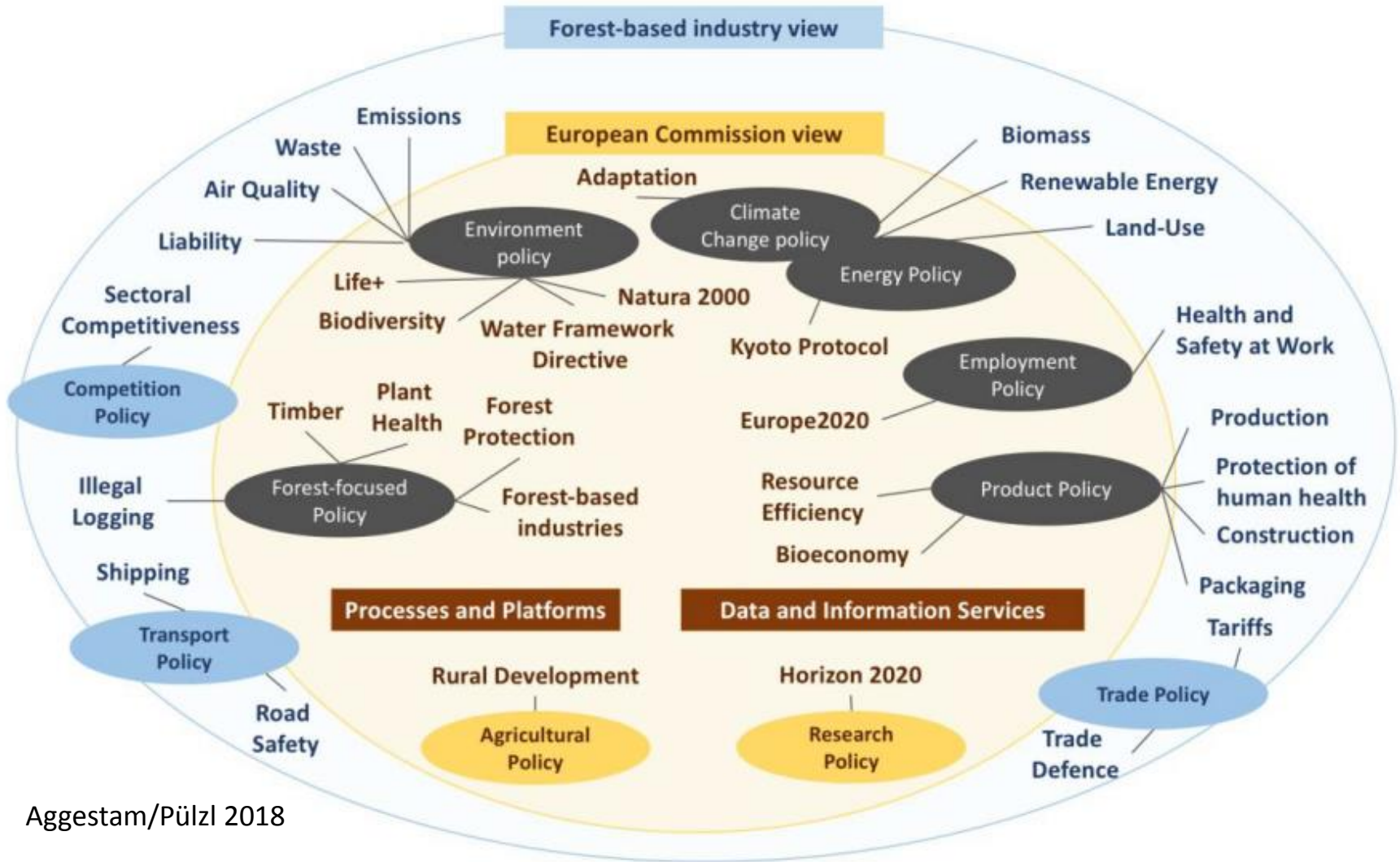
	Textiles Industry	Plastics Industry	Steel Industry	Forest-based industries
Turnover value <i>(in billion euros)</i>	166	320	170	486
Employment <i>(millions of workers)</i>	1.70	1.45	0.33	3.5

- **43% of EU's land cover**
- **16 million forest owners, many regional and local authorities**
- **415 thousand enterprises**
- **7% of Europe's economic growth**
- **Sustainable protection of: →soils →water →biodiversity →climate**



Multitude of EU policies and governance initiatives

- **Divergent societal expectations** towards forests, esp. on intensified forest management / removals
- **Divergent views** also reflected in EU arenas, e.g. Civil dialogue group on forestry and cork
- **Result:**
 - **Multitude of EU policies** and governance initiatives relevant for forest-based sector
 - Fragmentation of forest issues
 - **E.g.: Forestry Measures' share of RDP public expenditures ~ 5% → for 43% of the area!**
 - **EU Forest Strategy** as THE key framework **to address fragmentation through increased coordination**



Aggestam/Pülzl 2018



The EU Forest Strategy mid-term review

Current state of play

- **Strategy foresees a review by end 2018 to:**
 - **assess progress** in implementation
- **External study** “Progress in Implementing the EU Forest Strategy” launched in 12/2017
 - Consortium coordinated by EFI
 - 12/2017 - 09/2018
 - As *technical* knowledge base for the review
 - Objectives:
 - Review of progress in implementation
 - Assess progress towards objectives, taking into account the evolved policy context and identifying remaining gaps and shortfalls
- **Review then undertaken by Commission Services** as Staff Working Document by 12/2018
 - **Helps determine future priorities** for the period up to 2020



Beyond its objectives, the EU Forest Strategy mid-term review is a chance for ...

- Further increasing **visibility** of forests and the forest-based sector at EU level
- Identifying areas of **good performance**
- **Learning** about challenging or neglected fields
- Further improving **coordination** among different EU policies and governance initiatives

- **Prioritizing future actions**



Closing remarks

- Currently:
 - **Coordination among a large number of policies and initiatives**
 - **Limited incorporation of forests' possible contribution into evolving policies** (e.g. bioeconomy)
- Also: Emerging general **momentum for developing a future-oriented vision for EU forest related policies**, beyond just rural development
- **Review of EU Forest Strategy can be harnessed as a chance towards these ends**
 - **Prioritize future actions!**



Thank you for your kind attention!

References

- Pülzl H et al. (2013, Eds.). *European forest governance: issues at stake and the way forward*. What Science Can Tell Us “, European Forest Institute.
- Aggestam F and Pülzl H (2018). *Coordinating the Uncoordinated: The EU Forest Strategy*. In: *Forests*, 9 (125), 1-19.
- Hetemäki L, et al. (2017, Eds.). *Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy*. From Science to Policy 5, European Forest Institute.
- Giessen, L. (2012). *Temporary governance and persistent government – Rural policy integration in pilot and mainstream funding programmes*. In: Hogl, K. et al. (Eds.): *Environmental Governance: The challenge of legitimacy and effectiveness*. Edward Elgar, 155-177.



The evolved policy context (selection)

- Global
 - UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
 - UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs
 - UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change
 - Forest Europe deliberations and future for a pan-European forest convention
- EU
 - 10 Commission priorities for 2015-19
 - EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (including LULUCF and amendment of Renewable Energy Directive)
 - Evaluation of implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan
 - Review of implementation of the EU Timber Regulation
 - Action Plan on Nature, People and the Economy