

# EU FOREST STRATEGY

## Report on Progress in implementation

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13 – 14 of May 2019 – Szombathely, Hungary



# EU FOREST STRATEGY

The 2020 OBJECTIVE is 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**
- ▶ **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

## EU FOREST STRATEGY review

### Targets.....

- Review implementation status, covering the priority areas and strategic orientations, considering actions in the Forest multi-annual implementation plan (MAP)
- Assess progress towards objectives, in the light of the review
- Build on evolved policy context identifying, to the extent feasible, any remaining gaps and shortfalls
- Take into account Council conclusions, European Parliament's own-initiative report, and the Opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)

## EU FOREST STRATEGY review

### The Report

- Report from the Commission - collegial work
- Review/stocktaking vs. Evaluation/revision
- Concise forward-looking content
  
- Avoid Structure
  - Introduction
  - Summary of progress, in reference to Forest MAP
  - 8 priority areas, 8 sections
  - EU funding for forests and the forest-based sector
  - Conclusion - Progress towards 2020 objectives

## EU FOREST STRATEGY review

### MAIN MESSAGES

- Majority of MAP actions implemented as planned (i.e. about 90% completed or ongoing); 10% pending, some delays.
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the main source of EU funding for the forest sector. CAP forestry measures support many Strategy objectives in 24 Member States (90% Rural Development Plans).
- EU funds aligned in coherence and synergy to support objectives and priorities of the Strategy (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 Bio-economy Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, Action Plan Deforestation...

## EU FOREST STRATEGY review

### What is needed

- ▶ Interaction of forests and trees with urban and peri-urban areas and communities.
- ▶ Additional experience and exchanges of good practices in 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 Bio-economy Strategy.
- ▶ Enhance the role of Forest Management Plans in achieving biodiversity targets and support the provision of ecosystem services.
- ▶ A strengthened framework to disseminate Research & Innovation project results and reinforce capitalisation of innovation along value chains to support competitiveness.
- ▶ Forest harmonized information

## EU FOREST STRATEGY review

### 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.



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**THANK YOU**

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