EU Forest Strategy – supporting sustainable and multifunctional forestry

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

Cecilia Bretal Koenig
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
- Water collector and filtration
- Air freshening

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Forests
Strategy for forests and the forest sector supporting multifunctional forests

- 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
- Guiding principles of the strategy:
  - (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
  - (iii) **global forest responsibility**, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.
- Provides for a definition of Sustainable forest management (SFM)
- EU Forest Strategy Multiannual Implementation Plan
• Sets a **2020 objective** to ensure and demonstrate that:
  
  • All forests in the EU are managed according to SFM principles
  
  • The EU contribution to promoting SFM and reducing deforestation globally is strengthened.

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**Report on Mid-term Review published in December 2018**

**Aims**

- Review implementation status, covering the priority areas and strategic orientations, considering actions in the Forest MAP.
- Assess progress towards objectives, in the light of the review.
- Take into account Council conclusions, European Parliament’s own-initiative report, and the Opinions of the EESC and the CoR.
Some key messages

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

- CAP: main source of EU funding for the forest sector.

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

- Importance of SFM for climate mitigation and adaptation

- 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

- 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 Forests Management Plans (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 SFM.
CONFERENCE “OUR FORESTS, OUR FUTURE”

25-26 April 2019, Brussels

• WEBSTREAM

5 sessions

1. Contribution of forests and the forest-based sector to innovation, growth and jobs: opportunities and challenges for the Bioeconomy
2. Forests and the Paris Agreement: opportunities and challenges for forests and the forest-based sector
3. Forests and the health of the Earth
4. Protecting forests and promoting sustainable forest management at global level
5. Tree planting in action: presentation and discussion of successful tree planting campaigns and forest communication actions
Thank you for your attention

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