

New EU Forest Strategy and Criteria for SFM



Steve Smith

Unit “Bioenergy, Climate change and Forests”
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

1. The new EU Forest Strategy

2. Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management

3. Next Steps

PROCESS



- ✓ Adopted on the 20/9/2013 by the Commission
- ✓ Submitted to Council and Parliament.
- ✓ Presented at the AGRI-FISH Council on 23/9/2013
- ✓ Supported by 6 Commissioners:

Lead	Ciolos (AGRI)
Co-responsible	Potočnik (ENV) and Tajani (ENTR)
Associated	Heedegard (CLIMA), Oettinger (ENER) and Geoghegan-Quinn (RTD)

- ✓ Builds on the work from the last 2 years with Member States (SFC) and stakeholders (AG Forestry and Cork – AC Forest-based Industries)

New EU Forest Strategy



Communication from the Commission to the Council and Parliament COM(2013)659 "A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector"

Accompanied by **2 Staff Working Documents:**

- Staff WD accompanying the Communication on a New EU Forest Strategy
- Staff WD on a blueprint for forest-based industries



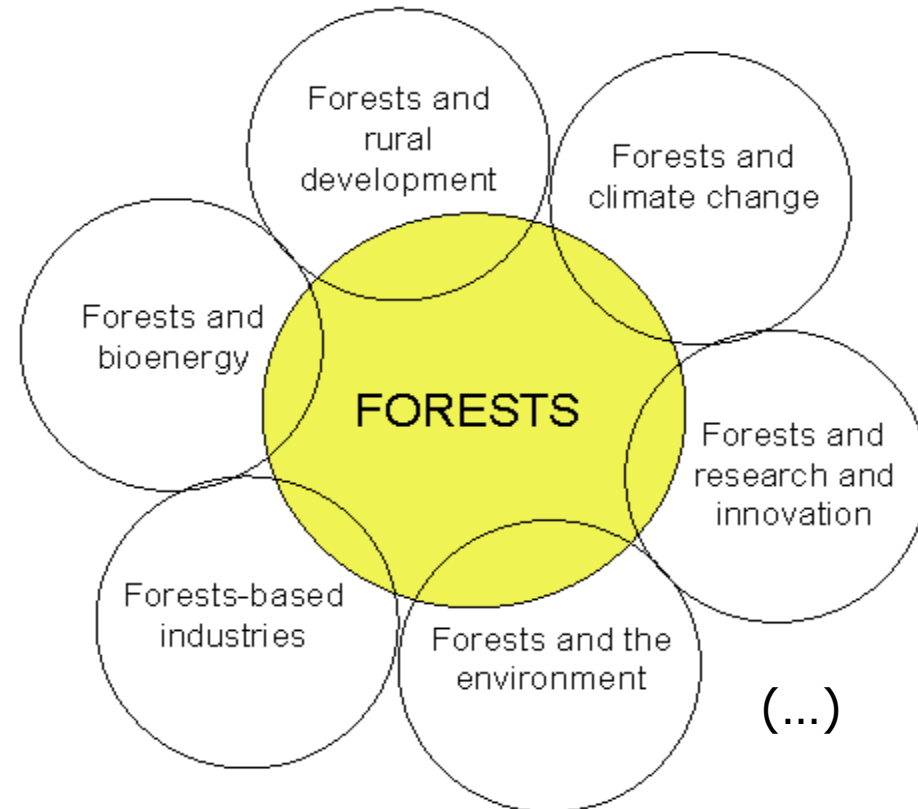
<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest>



Forest Strategy (for forests and the forest-based sector)

A holistic view of forests
and all related policies,
addressing also the
value chain.

Scope of the Forest Strategy



New EU Forest Strategy



- ✓ Ensuring that forests play a positive socio-economic & environmental role in the EU: employment, rural development, added value products while delivering ecosystem services
- ✓ Integrated with key EU political strategies: contribution from the sector to Europe 2020 Strategy and other 2020 and 2050 targets.
- ✓ Address in a coherent framework policy areas that have implications for forests.
- ✓ Address how to influence action on forests in areas of EU competence.



Sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests, delivering multiple goods and services in a balanced way and ensuring forest protection.

Resource efficiency, optimising the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation.

Global forest responsibility, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.

FOREST 2020 OBJECTIVES



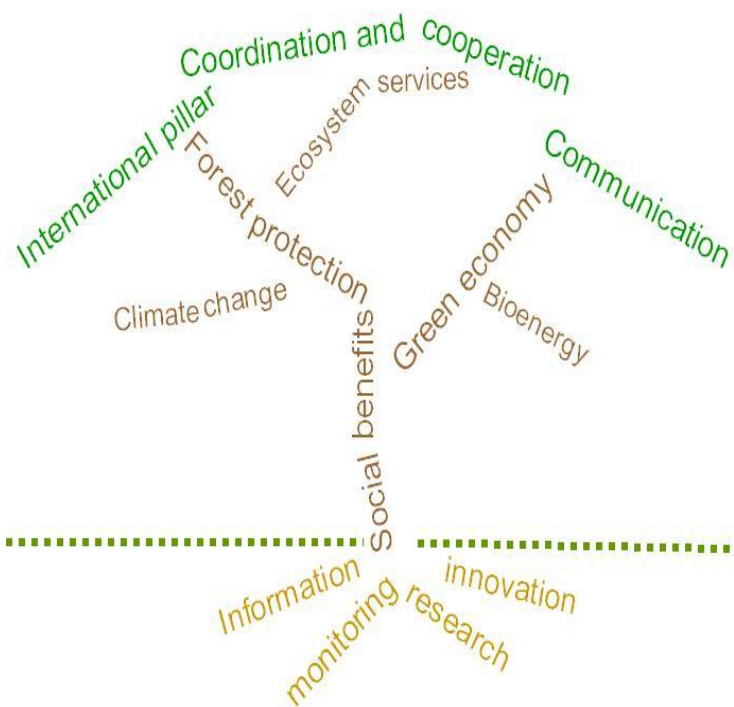
To **ensure** and **demonstrate** that all forests in the EU are managed according to **sustainable forest management** principles and that the EU's contribution to promoting sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation at global level is strengthened, thus:

- contributing to **balancing** various forest functions, meeting demands, and delivering vital ecosystem services;
- providing a basis for forestry and the whole forest-based value chain to be competitive and viable contributors to the **bio-based economy**.

8 LINKED PRIORITY AREAS



Commission européenne



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



For this strategy to be meaningful to those policies that require or might require evidence of sustainable forest management and to reach its goals, **objective, ambitious and demonstrable sustainable forest management criteria** that could be **applied to all uses of forest biomass** are needed.

(To be developed by the Commission together with MS and stakeholders -through the Standing Forestry Committee-)



The strategy, and its implementation, **should build on existing legislation and international initiatives**, including work carried out under FOREST EUROPE, consider the special situation of small forest owners, and address market-based private-sector tools such as certification.

Demonstrating SFM



- Forestry measures under RD should be dedicated to contributing to the objectives of this strategy, and in particular to ensuring that EU forests are managed according to **sustainable forest management** principles.
- **Forest Management Plans** or **equivalent instruments** based on the principles of sustainable forest management are key instruments in delivering multiple goods and services in a balanced way. FMPs are at the core of both the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and EU Rural Development funding. The strategy encompasses them and promotes and supports their use.



- At pan-European level, the focus is on the ongoing negotiations on establishing a **legally binding agreement on forests**, with the EU as a key actor.
- Through this agreement, the EU aims to improve sustainable forest management across the region.
- The new strategy forms a suitable vehicle for the implementation of the agreement.



- **Start immediately the implementation** work through the Standing Forestry Committee, when necessary in close cooperation with other committees and fora;
- **First SFC workshop end of November** – back to back with normal SFC meeting, and plan future work;
- **Involve, and maintain links with, pan-European processes** – invitation to workshop/SFC.

Thank you for your attention



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