



**EUSALP ANNUAL FORUM – 10 December 2020**

**Multifunctional Alpine Forests: what uses, what conflicts?**

# The new EU Forest Strategy State of Play

*Marco Onida*

*European Commission. DG ENVIRONMENT – LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT UNIT*

**CLIMATE  
PACT AND CLIMATE  
LAW**

**PROMOTING  
CLEAN  
ENERGY**



**INVESTING IN  
SMARTER, MORE  
SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORT**

**STRIVING  
FOR GREENER  
INDUSTRY**



**PROTECTING  
NATURE**



# The European Green Deal

**FROM FARM  
TO FORK**



**ELIMINATING  
POLLUTION**



**LEADING THE  
GREEN CHANGE  
GLOBALLY**



**ENSURING  
A JUST TRANSITION  
FOR ALL**



**MAKING  
HOMES ENERGY  
EFFICIENT**



**FINANCING  
GREEN  
PROJECTS**



# Biodiversity strategy to 2030 - Protect Nature



## Protect 30% of EU land and sea

- Based on Natura 2000 and nationally designated areas
- EU wide target, take into account specific situation in MS
- Integrate ecological corridors to build coherent network

## Strictly protect a third of these areas

- Covering areas of very high biodiversity value & important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, **including all primary and old growth forest\***

**\* OGF have to be defined and mapped**



## Further provisions on forests (1)

*Increase the quantity, quality and resilience of EU forests, notably against fires, pests and other disturbances*

*All forests need to be preserved in good health to retain their functions for biodiversity and climate, as well as to provide materials, products and services for the circular bio-economy*

*EU Forest Strategy in 2021, building on the EU Biodiversity Strategy*

*Further development of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE), linking all EU forest-data web-platforms*



## Further provisions on forests (2)

### *Afforestation, reforestation and tree planting*

- **Plant at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030 in full respect of ecological principles, special focus on cities and agroforestry**
- **To be promoted via the CAP strategic plans and the cohesion policy funds + new European Urban Greening Platform and LIFE**
- **Commission to develop, in parallel with new EU forest strategy, guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation and reforestation**



## Further provisions on forests (3)

### *Forest management*

- **The share of forest areas covered by management plans should cover all managed public forests and an increased number of private forests**
- **Biodiversity-friendly practices such as closer-to-nature forestry should continue and be further developed**
- **Commission to develop, in parallel with the new EU Forest Strategy, guidelines on closer-to-nature forestry practices**



## Forests and energy generation

*Continue the approach of the Renewable Energy Directive, extending to all forms of bioenergy the shift to advanced biofuels based on residues and non-reusable and non-recyclable waste.*

*The use of whole trees and food & feed crops for energy production, whether produced in the EU or imported, should be minimised.*

*Assessment of EU and global biomass supply & demand by end 2020, to be used for the revision of relevant legislation in line with the European Green Deal*

*Operational guidance on the new sustainability criteria on forest biomass for energy (2021).*



# Roadmap for a new EU Forest Strategy

- Commission Work Programme 2020 plans for a new Forest Strategy in 2021
- Published 30 Oct. 2020
- Feedback: 5 weeks (until 4 Dec. 2020)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12674-EU-Forest-Strategy->

## Key elements

- Echoes the language of the EU Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy, seeking consistency
- Strategy's aim is to help contribute to **climate neutrality**, **biodiversity** conservation, **adaptation** and **resilience**; reduce the incidence of forest fires and other pressures; support the circular **bioeconomy** and the future and **welfare of rural areas**, and the **social functions of forests**.
- **OPEN PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO BE LAUNCHED IN JANUARY - AT LEAST 12 WEEKS FOR FEEDBACK**



# Areas for action

- Enhance **forest protection and restoration** to meet the EU biodiversity and climate objectives
- Preserve stocks and increase the **EU carbon sinks** in forests, their soils and harvested wood products
- Enhance **prevention** of disaster risk events and of damages, and **resilience** to natural hazards
- Secure **forest health** with a view to changing climatic conditions and environmental degradation
- Support **restoration** of damaged areas and degraded ecosystems
- Ensure the **sustainable management of all EU forests**, maximising the provision of their multiple functions while enhancing their productive capacity
- A roadmap for **planting** at least three billion additional trees by 2030
- **Adaptation** of forests to climate change strengthening resilience
- New **training, skills and jobs**
- **Rural development**, including local enterprises and value chains
- Innovative forest-based services and products replacing carbon-intensive counterparts
- A strong research and innovation agenda, including for the bioeconomy
- Stronger **coordination** between national forest policies and the European Green Deal
- Improve and harmonise **monitoring** to demonstrate the contribution to EU objectives
- Secure **financing**, including for research, ensuring a consistent approach of funding instruments
- **Innovative financial incentives**, including payments for ecosystem services and result-based schemes
- Improve **communication** on forests and their roles, considering the rural/urban interface
- **Consistency with international commitments**, reinforcing EU's international leadership

# The Alpine region and forests

- Landmark case for multifunctionality
- Recognized since 1996 – Alpine Convention protocol on Mountain Forests
  - Protective functions
  - Ecological functions
  - Role for climate mitigation and adaptation
  - Social and economic functions
  - Ecosystem services (and payments for)

# Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

