Contribution from forestry to strengthen competitiveness and socioeconomic viability in rural areas

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1. Background

2. EU Forest Strategy and its Forest MAP

3. Forestry measures under Rural Development Regulation
**EU Forests**

- **Forest and other wooded land:** 180 million ha (42% of total EU land)
- **Ownership:** 40% public and 60% private (around 16 million of private owners)
- **Natura 2000:** 50% of total Natura 2000 network in forests
- **Felling:** 60% of the net annual increment (annual growth)
- **Certification:** around 50% certified
EU Forest-based sector - increasing demands

**Forest-based industries:**
- 3.5 million **jobs**
- €5000 billion of annual **turnover**
- 90% of wood as **raw material** comes from the EU, the remaining 10%: most from Russia, neighbouring countries and North America

**Forest bioenergy:**
- Around 50% of total EU **renewable energy consumption**
- Most imports (mainly pellets) from Canada, USA and Russia
- Imports expected to increase in the future

**Emerging bio-based industries:**
Wood is considered as an important source of raw material (green chemicals, viscose, bioplastics, …)
Importance of non-wood forest products and services

**Non-wood products:** Cork, resins, medicinal plants, mushrooms, truffles, game, nuts, berries...

**Services:** protection of soil, air purification, water quality...

In many cases, important to diversity income and as a source of employment in less favored rural areas

EU Rural Development policy supports SFM and multifunctionality, contributing to further developing these non-wood products and services
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Strategy for forests and the forest sector: holistic view of forests and all related policies, addressing also the value chain.

Objective:
- support sustainable forest management
- strengthen the coordination with Member States as well as the coherence of EU policies affecting forests

Ensuring that forests play a positive socio-economic & environmental role in the EU: rural development, added value products while delivering ecosystem services
Principles and 2020 Objective

Sustainable forest management (forests)
Goods and services in a balanced way, ensuring protection.

Resource efficiency (value chain)
Contribution to rural development, growth & jobs

Global forest responsibility (international)
Beyond EU borders

2020 OBJECTIVE: To ensure and demonstrate that all forests in the EU are managed according to sustainable forest management principles.
8 linked priority areas

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- Coordination and cooperation
- Communication
- International pillar
- Forest protection
- Ecosystem services
- Green economy
- Bioenergy
- Social benefits
- Climate change
- Social innovation
- Monitoring research
- Information

Agriculture and Rural Development
8 linked priority areas

- Coordination and cooperation
- International pillar
- Forest protection
- Ecosystem services
- Climate change
- Green economy
- Bioenergy
- Social benefits
- Innovation
- Information
- Monitoring
- Research
The Forest MAP

Multi-Annual implementation Plan of the EU Forest Strategy (Forest MAP)

Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest/publications/index_en.htm
Concrete list of actions for the period 2015-2020 (actions, actors, target date and expected outcome)

Key priorities highlighted

Priorities for the work of the Commission services also identified.

Annual working plan of the Standing Forestry Committee and work programme of the Expert Group on F-BI, linked to the Forest MAP

Council and Parliament to be informed on progress made (presentation to COMAGRI on 5/9/2015)

Mid term review of the EU Forest Strategy by 2018
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6 Union priorities for rural development

1. **Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas**

2. Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forests

3. Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture

4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry

5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

6. Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
A minimum amount of the total EAFRD contribution to the Rural Development Programs shall be reserved:

- At least 30% for:
  - Environment and climate related investments (Article 18)
  - Forestry measures (Articles 21-26 and Article 34)
  - Agri-environment-climate (Article 29)
  - Organic farming (Article 30)
  - Natura 2000 (Article 31 with the exception of WFD related payments)
  - ANC (Articles 32-33)

- At least 5% for Leader
Forestry measures (art. 21-26, 34)

- Contributing to the sustainable management of forests
- **Simplified support: One measure** (article 21) covering the following sub-measures:
  - Afforestation and creation of woodland
  - Establishment of agroforestry systems
  - Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events
  - Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems
  - Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

→ This simplification allows beneficiaries to implement integrated projects with increased added value.

- Forest-environment payments for going beyond the mandatory requirements. (article 34)
  - Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation
Forestry measures: Some numbers

- **Around €7.2 billion of public expenditure is programmed for the period 2014-2020 for forestry measures.**

- **Half** of this spending will primarily serve **ecosystem services**.

- **Around one third** targets promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a **low carbon and climate resilient economy**.

- More than **600 thousand hectares of new forests** and more than **80 thousand hectares of new agroforestry systems** could be established contributing to adaptation and mitigation of climate change and increasing the renewable material supply to the bio-based economy while delivering ecosystem services.
Thank you for your attention!

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

SFM