



The EU Forest Strategy

Report on Progress in implementation

European Economic and Social Committee

Brussels, 20 Mai 2019

EU FOREST Strategy



2020 OBJECTIVE

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



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
- 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 EESC and the CoR.



The Report

- Report from the Commission – collegial work
- Review/stocktaking vs. Evaluation/revision
- Concise
- Avoid forward-looking content
- 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



SOME KEY MESSAGES

- Majority of MAP actions implemented as planned (i.e. about 90% completed or ongoing); 10% pending, some delays.
- CAP, the main source of EU funding for the forest sector. CAP forestry measures support many Strategy objectives in 24 MS (90% RDPs).
- EU funds aligned in coherence and synergy to support objectives and priorities of the Strategy (CP, ESIF, LIFE, Research, Development cooperation)
- The report shows the Strategy is fit for addressing 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 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 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.
- Forest harmonized information (FISE, ENFIN...)



Conclusions

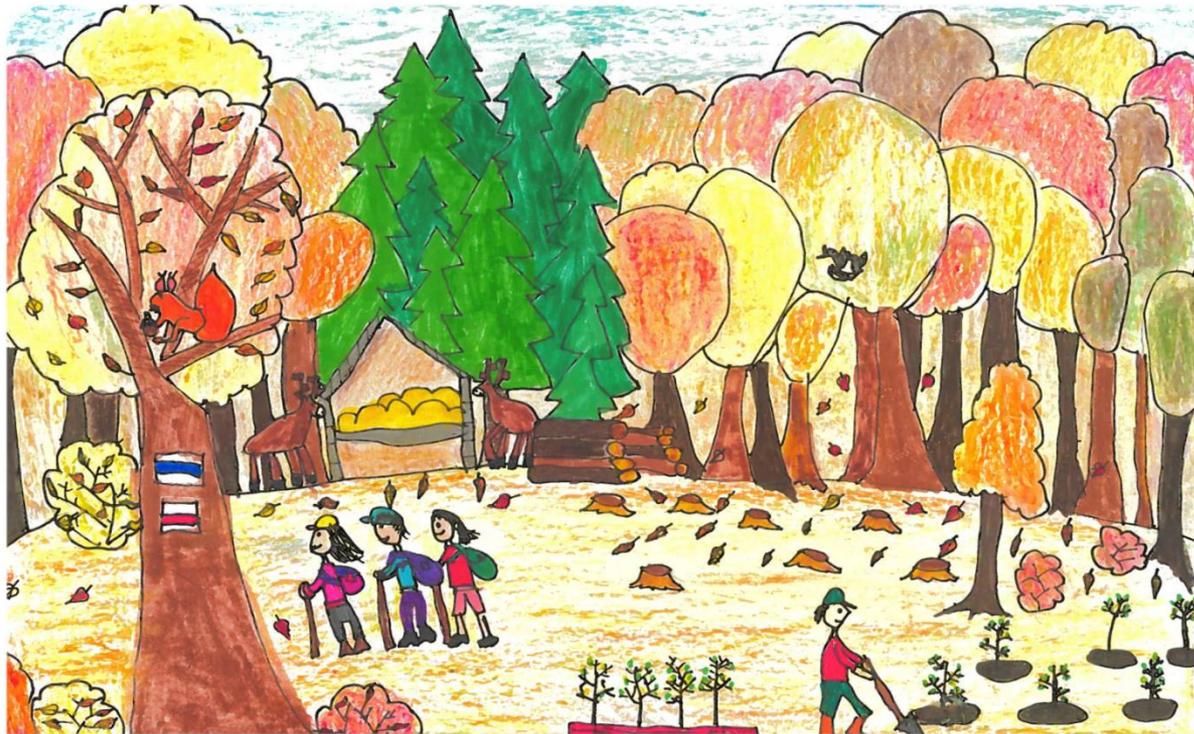
- Significant progress towards 2020 objectives
- Substantial progress implementing the activities addressing priority areas and strategic orientations.
- A valid tool to serve multiple purposes that sometimes can be perceived as contradictory.
- Growing demands and pressures might require more efforts 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.



Next Steps

- Continued implementation of Forest MAP 2019-20
- Governance, coordination - Work on new SFC working modalities

Thank you for your attention!



SFM

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