



*Round table 'Forest-related reporting at the EU level – what we know and what's missing?'*

EOS Presentation

10/10/2023

## A dire picture

- The European sawmill industry is going through its most difficult year since the global financial crisis of 2008/2009
- Precise figures are still hard to come by and, but we estimate that both in the hardwood and in the softwood sector production will plummet by around 15% and locally even 20%
- Prices have also sharply declined not just from the high peaks of 2021/2022 but also in some cases as compared to long-term averages
- Costs are high amid high inflation rates (energy, personnel etc...) and increasing burden connected to legislative measures

# Legislative burden increasing

1. Forest Strategy for 2030;
2. Biodiversity strategy for 2030;
3. Nature Restoration Law;
4. Regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR);
5. LULUCF Regulation;
6. EU Certification for Carbon Removals;
7. Carbon farming initiative;
8. Renewable Energy Directive revision;
9. Circular Economy Action Plan;
10. Natura 2000;
11. EU Bioeconomy Strategy;
12. Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
13. Taxonomy;
14. Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive;
15. Construction Products Regulation;

.....

# Hold off on green legislation to ease the pressure on EU businesses

- A few years ago we believed (and commissioned a study) that more data-sharing on forests could be beneficial for the wood-working industry;
- In the light of:
  - Geo-political tensions and correlated clouds over the EU's economy;
  - Increased legislative burden and lack of a coherency amongst policies that have not been yet implemented;

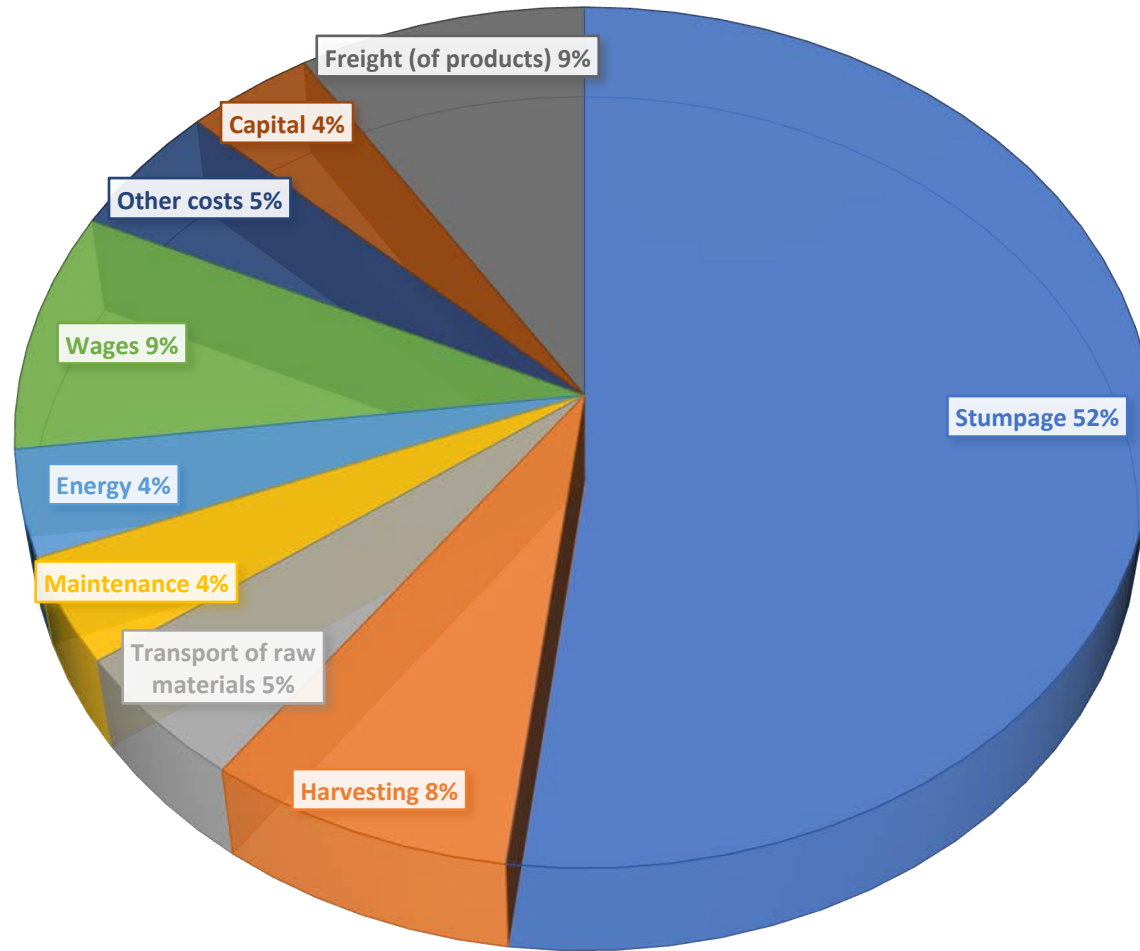
**We call for postponing the Forest Monitoring Law in order to first better assess the costs' implications of the recently adopted pieces of legislation and find optimal synergies**

Moreover:

Any further increase in the legislative burden for forest owners might have perverse effect of:

- Demotivating forest owners to harvest
- Increasing logs prices

# Costs breakdown for a sawmill



Source: Sahateollisuus

## A second best option

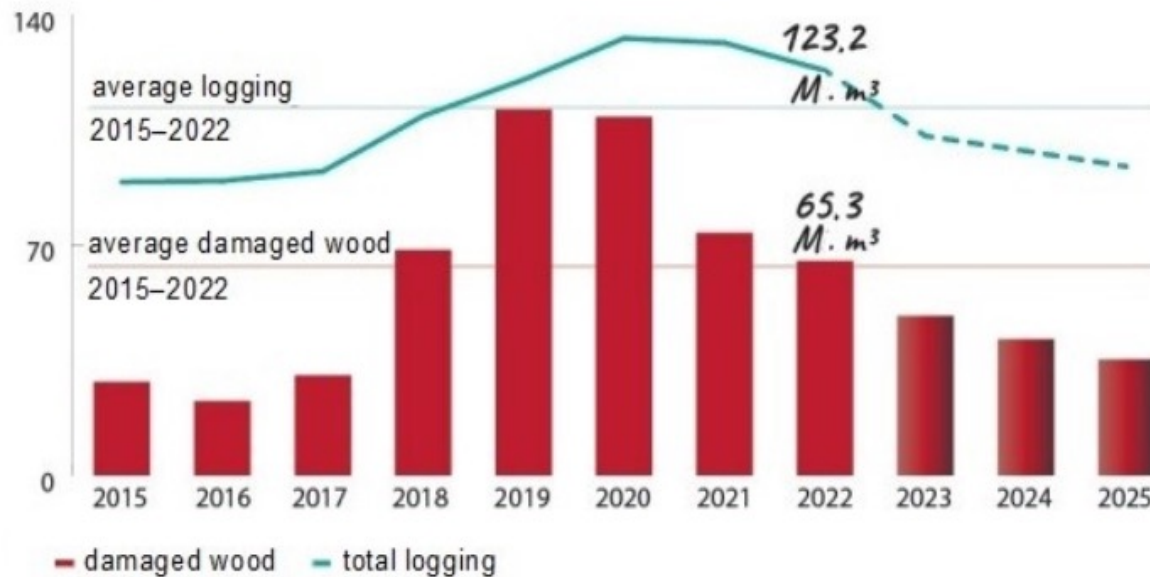
- **IF**, forest monitoring law will actually be proposed, the European sawmill and woodworking industries are aligned with the recently-published Joint Statement of Forestry Ministers of FI, SW, SI, AT: by which the comprehensive sustainability of forest management requires that local conditions are taken into account;
- The Forest Monitoring Law should not be a Trojan horse for the EU institutions to try and appropriate competences which are best kept at national level
- But we are in favour of aggregating some data at EU level, **IF already available at national level (no extra costs so). For instance: disturbances**

# Bark beetle attacks

How much spruce has been damaged in Europe as a result of bark-beetle crisis? No database helps with this question. Best estimates provided by journalists.

## LOGGING / DAMAGED WOOD IN CENTRAL EUROPE | 2015–2025

Cumulated volumes of harvested and damaged wood in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria in million m<sup>3</sup>



- Breakdown by disturbance is available at national level.

Source: Destatis, BMEL; VÚLHM, BFW, BML; Holzkurier estimate (2023–2025) © Timber-Online.net



Thanks for your  
attention!