

Webinar: EU Forest Strategy post-2020 in the context of post-EU Green Deal future-fit Europe:

How to maximize the contribution from sustainably managed and multifunctional forests for climate neutrality, biodiversity and a growing circular bio-economy?

December 3rd 2020 13:00 CET

More than one-third of Europe is covered by forests, providing a wealth of economic, environmental and social benefits for all Europeans. Up to one-third of the forests in Europe are owned by states, which means that they belong to the citizens of Europe. At the same time there are 16 million private forest owners in the EU. Those together form a core for forests with multiple objectives which regions are relying on.

European forestry and the forest-based sector has long history in defining and implementing sustainable forest management and strengthening forests' purpose as ecosystem service providers. Forests have a key role in tackling the climate change in two fundamental ways, namely through climate mitigation and climate adaptation. Only healthy and resilient forests can deliver expected inputs. Forests offer livelihood and green jobs, especially in rural areas.

Forests and forest products function as a cornerstone of circular bio-economy, providing a carefully monitored source of raw materials while at the same time they are boosting competitiveness, green growth and enabling circular low-carbon economy. Forest-based value chain is also digitally and technically advanced. Forests and forest-based sector offer substitution potential for fossils that can be further developed and improved with research and innovation to reduce our dependency on non-sustainable materials.

The new European Forest Strategy post-2020 will have to coordinate the different European policies that are affecting forests at European, national and subnational levels. How these different objectives will be balanced in the new European Forest Strategy? How priorities will be set and which practical improvements will be implemented?

This Webinar will have high-level discussions with representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, and regional level who will offer their insights about the future of the EU forest strategy.

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Programme

Introduction and welcome by Moderator

Aigar Kallas, Vice-President of European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), chief executive officer of State Forests of Estonia (RMK)

Opening words on the behalf of Forested Regions

Risto Poutiainen, Region Mayor of North Karelia

EU Forest strategy - Insights from the European Parliament

Petri Sarvamaa, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party

The perspective from the European Commission

Nicola Di Virgilio, Policy Analyst, Environment, climate change, forestry and bio-economy, DG AGRI, European Commission

Assessment of possible leakage effects of implementing EU COM proposals for the EU Biodiversity Strategy on forestry and forests in non-EU countries.

Matthias Dieter, Head of Institute, Thünen-Institute of International Forestry and Forest Economics

The perspective of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Aljoscha Requardt, Policy Advisor, European and International Forest Policy, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Moderator's foreword and Q&A

Final words on the behalf of Forested Regions

Representative of Junta de Castilla y León

Wrap up

Organised by ERIAFF Working Group of Forested Regions, European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), East & North Finland EU office, and region of Castilla y León.