

EU policy demands regarding forest data

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European Forestry House Round Table:
Forest-related reporting at the EU level – what we know and what's missing?

10 October 2023



EU Green Deal (2019)

What is the European Green Deal?

December 2019
#EUGreenDeal

The European Green Deal is about **improving the well-being of people**. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.

The EU will:

- Become climate-neutral by 2050
- Protect human life, animals and plants, by cutting pollution
- Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies
- Help ensure a just and inclusive transition

"The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy. It will help us cut emissions while creating jobs."
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

"We propose a green and inclusive transition to help improve people's well-being and secure a healthy planet for generations to come."
Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

- 11 March 2020** Proposal of a **Circular Economy Action Plan** focusing on sustainable resource use
 - 10 March 2020** Adoption of the **European Industrial Strategy**, a plan for a future-ready economy
 - 4 March 2020** Proposal for a **European climate law** to ensure a climate neutral European Union by 2050
Public consultation (open until 17 June 2020) on the **European Climate Pact** bringing together regions, local communities, civil society, businesses and schools
 - 14 January 2020** Presentation of the **European Green Deal Investment Plan** and the **Just Transition Mechanism**
 - 11 December 2019** Presentation of the **European Green Deal**
- [Hide 54 items ^](#)



EU Green Deal – forest context

- » Forest related proposals, goals and targets within the EU Green Deal
- » Expected forest related reporting, monitoring and assessments
- » EU Forest data monitoring discussions – what do we know so far



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Establishing protected areas for at least



30% of land



10 % strictly
protected



30% of sea



- Define, map, monitor and strictly protect all the EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests.
- Restoration law: Putting in place restoration measures at 20/30% of the EU land and the sea by 2030 + achieving an increasing trend for several forest indicators [..+ EU countries are expected to submit National Restoration Plans to the Commission, showing how they will deliver on the targets. They will also be required to monitor and report on their progress.



Fit for 55 Package

- » Package of energy and climate proposals aiming to strengthen the increased overall climate ambition for 2030 of cutting emissions by 55%, and ultimately reaching net zero emissions by 2050
- » New legislative proposals:
 - revision of the regulation on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)
 - amendment to the renewable energy directive (RED)



Fit for 55 Package - LULUCF

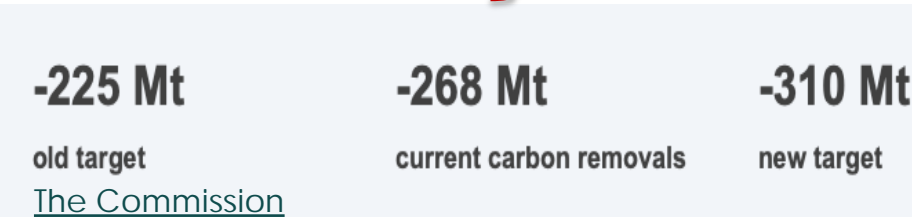
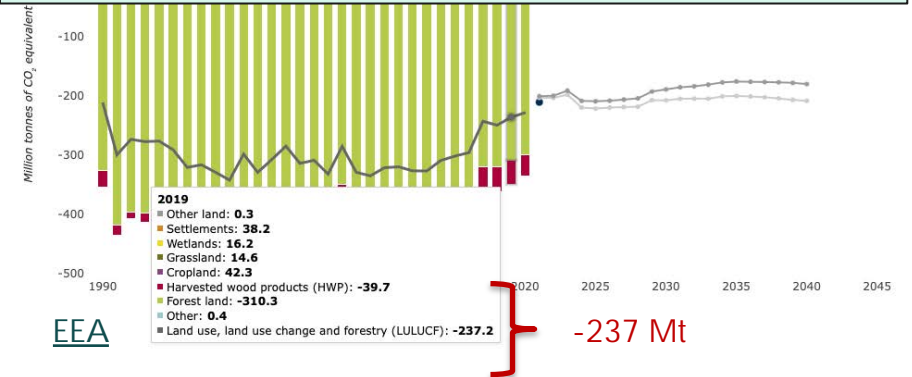
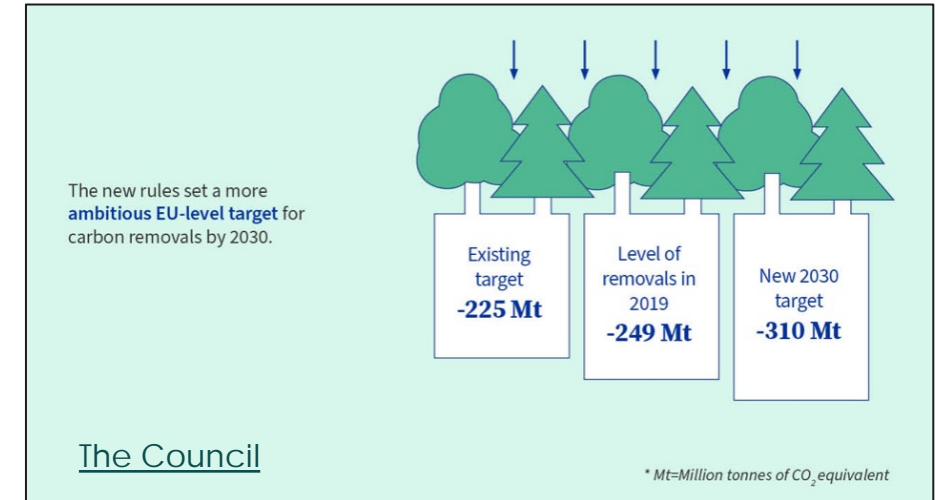
(12) Article 14 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. By 15 March 2027 for the period from 2021 to 2025, and by 15 March 2032 for the period from 2026 to 2030, Member States shall submit to the Commission a compliance report, based on annual datasets, containing the balance of total emissions and total removals for the relevant period on each of the land accounting categories specified in Article 2(1), points (a) to (f), for the period from 2021 to 2025 and in Article 2(2), points (a) to (j), for the period from 2026 to 2030, using the accounting rules laid down in this Regulation.

The compliance report shall include an assessment of:

- (a) the policies and measures regarding possible trade-offs, including at least with other Union environmental objectives and strategies, such as those laid down in the 8th Environment Action Programme set out in Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*), in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and in the communication of the Commission of 11 October 2018 on a sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: Strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment;
- (b) how Member States have taken into account the “do no significant harm” principle when adopting their policies and measures to comply with their target set in accordance with Article 4(3) or their budget set in accordance with Article 4(4), to the extent relevant;
- (c) the synergies between climate mitigation and adaptation, including policies and measures to reduce the vulnerability of land to natural disturbances and the climate;
- (d) synergies between climate mitigation and biodiversity.



Fit for 55 Package - RED

Amendment to the renewable energy directive (RED): Article 29 (Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels)

- 7b. As part of their final updated integrated national energy and climate plan to be submitted by 30 June 2024 pursuant to Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, Member States shall include all of the following:
- (a) an assessment of the domestic supply of forest biomass available for energy purposes in 2021-2030 in accordance with the criteria laid down in this Article;
 - (b) an assessment of the compatibility of the projected use of forest biomass for the production of energy with the Member States' targets and budgets for 2026 to 2030 laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2018/841;
and
 - (c) a description of the national measures and policies ensuring compatibility with those targets and budgets.



Other reporting needs

- Deforestation and forest degradation: The due diligence to be exercised by operators includes the collection of information and documents to fulfil the information requirements as set out in Article 9 and the risk assessment and risk mitigation measures as referred to in Article 10 of the proposal + The Regulation also requires Member States to make available by 30 April of each year, information on the application of this Regulation during the previous calendar year regarding the plans for checks, the number and results of controls carried out and volume of commodities and products checked in relation to the total quantity placed on the market. Subsequently, the Commission will publish annually an overview of the application of the Regulation based on the data submitted by Member States.
- Carbon removals certification (Commission proposal): As set out in the proposed Regulation, the carbon removal claims made by operators will need to be regularly monitored, reported and independently verified by certification bodies. Art 10 sets an obligation for the Member States to supervise the operation of certification bodies and an annual reporting requirement would be introduced in respect of recognised certification schemes. As for the content of annual reports, these would need to provide information on the operations of certification schemes, including a description of any cases of fraud and related remediation measures.
- Environmental economic accounts (Commission proposal): The proposed Regulation would aim to add three new modules onto Article 2 of Regulation 691/2011 to include forest accounts, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, as well as ecosystem accounts. Forest data would be subject of both, forest and ecosystem accounts.
- Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Commission proposal): Member States shall electronically report the data and information to the Commission and to the EEA every 5 years (monitoring and assessments, trend analysis, etc).



EU Forest data monitoring discussions – what do we know so far

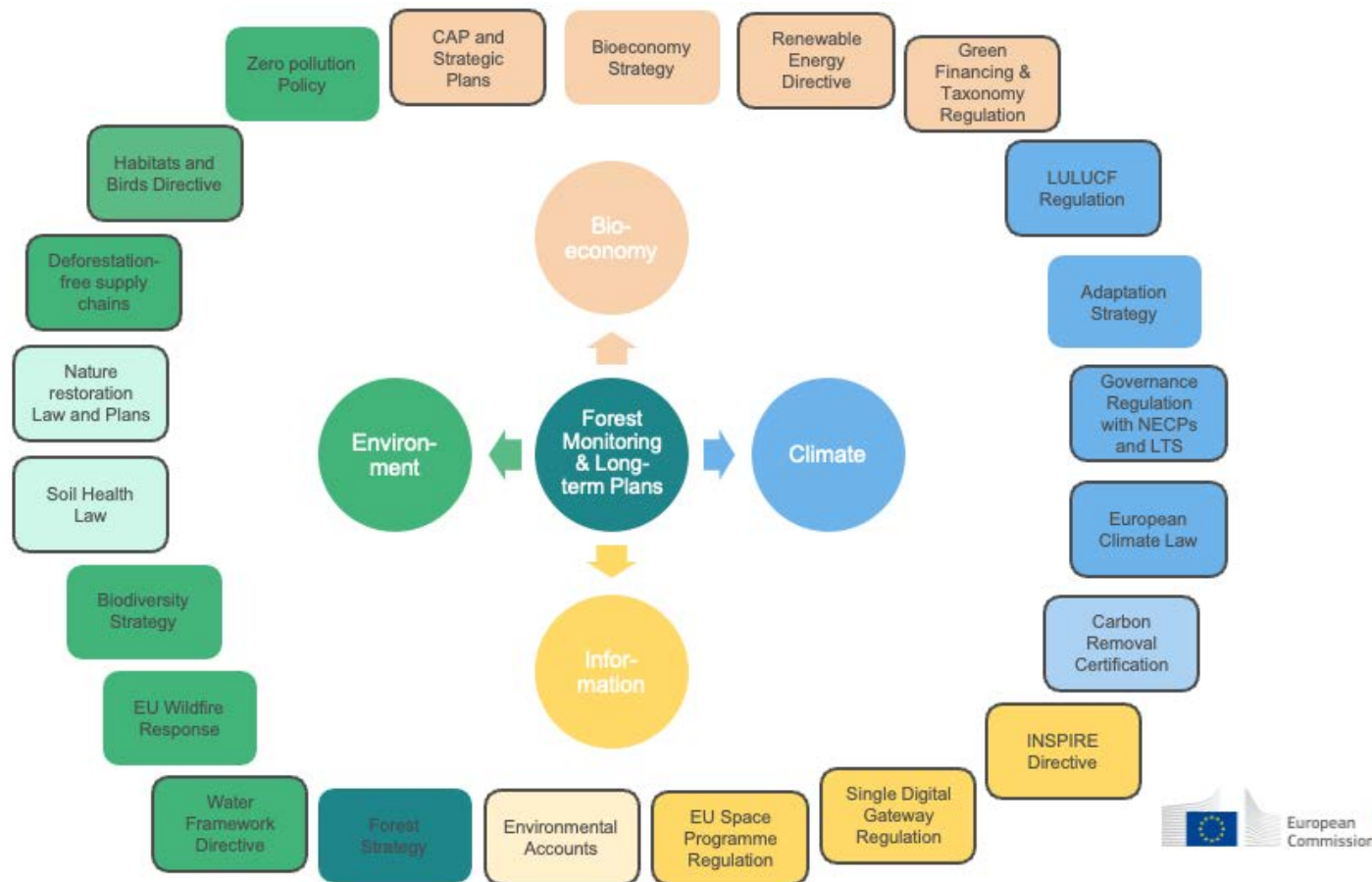
EU Forest Strategy for 2030

The Commission will:

1. Put forward a proposal for a new legislative proposal on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection to ensure a coordinated EU forest monitoring, data collection and reporting system. As part of this, Member States competent authorities would prepare Strategic Plans for Forests for forests and the forest based sector, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle and the Treaty, by Q1 2023.
2. As part of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE), on the basis of improved Copernicus products, other remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring, strengthen the existing monitoring of climate effects and other natural or human-induced disturbances on forests.
3. Prepare and publish regular reports and lay summaries on the forests in the EU with the support of a broader European forest science partnership.
4. Through its Joint Research Centre ⁵⁹, develop a European forest science partnership, with a view to support the development of new indicators based on remote sensing and the latest research results.



EU Forest data monitoring discussions – what do we know so far

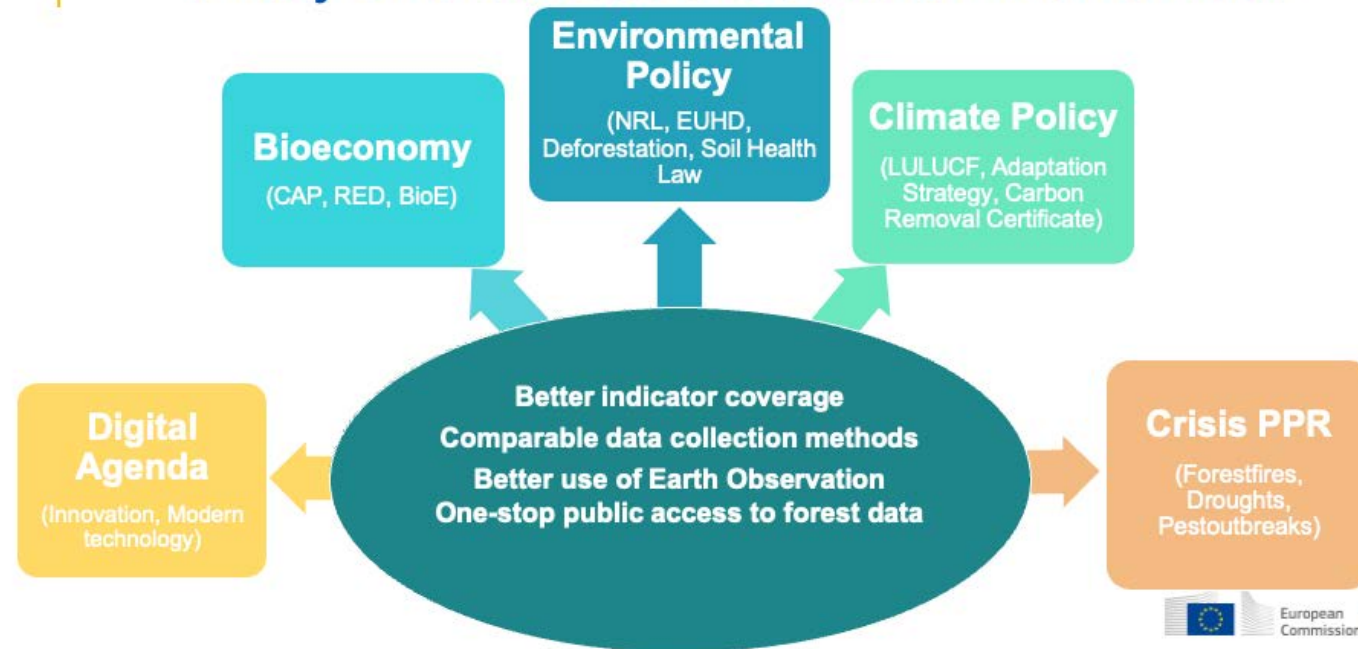


Source: European Commission presentation - Forest information needs for the EU ([Workshop](#) towards harmonised forest monitoring and reporting for the EU Uppsala 1-2 Feb 2023)



EU Forest data monitoring discussions – what do we know so far

An EU framework for consistent, comparable, timely and accessible data on EU forests



Source: European Commission presentation - Forest information needs for the EU ([Workshop](#) towards harmonised forest monitoring and reporting for the EU Uppsala 1–2 Feb 2023)



EU Forest data monitoring discussions – what do we know so far

- » Focus on regular and more frequent cost-efficient reporting and update of data on priority EU policy-relevant topics, such as effects of climate change, biodiversity, health, damages, invasive alien species, forest management, and the biomass use for different socio-economic purposes.
- » High spatial and temporal granularity. Timeliness particularly important also due to the rapid unfolding of forest natural disturbances.
- » Benefits from the EU Space Programme components - leverage Galileo and Copernicus services to improve these processes.
- » List of parameters relevant for harmonised EU monitoring. Data to be collected and reported building on existing indicators and monitoring schemes at national and EU level.

Source: European Commission presentation - Where do we stand ? ([Workshop](#) towards harmonised forest monitoring and reporting for the EU Uppsala 1-2 Feb 2023)



Conclusions?

- » Several requests for reporting, monitoring and assessment regarding forests in the current EU policy context
- » Overlaps and gaps between them and also with other reporting systems
- » Resources - financial, human, technologies
- » Adequate methodologies for realistic assessments



European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)

www.eustafor.eu

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