



To
President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso
European Commission
1049 Brussels, Belgium

CC:
Secretary-General of the European Commission
Catherine Day

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
Dacian Cioloş

Head of Cabinet, President of the European Commission
Johannes Laitenberger

Adviser, President of the European Commission
Arianna Vannini

Brussels, 16 July 2013

Ref.: EU Forest Strategy

Dear President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso,

The European forest sector, represented by the private and public forest owners, the forest-based industries, as well as the agricultural sector and other land users and owners, are very much concerned about the delay of the publication by the Commission of the Communication on the new EU Forest Strategy. According to the original timetable, the Interservice Consultation was expected to be closed in April 2013. Nonetheless, the process to move forward with this important dossier is still blocked at the highest level within the Commission.

A coherent and stable framework instrument to better promote sustainable forest management and to make a clear reference to the forest sector and its economic relevance in EU policies is highly needed. Only a clearly formulated new EU Forest Strategy can help to enable and facilitate the provision of concrete responses from European forests and the forest-based sector to the increasing societal demands and challenges formulated by other policies, such as those concerning climate, energy and environment. The current Forestry Strategy of 1998 no longer meets all these demands. Having a further delay with the new EU Forest Strategy or even risking having no Forest Strategy at all is, considering the increasing pressure on forests from other sectoral policies, not acceptable.

As the new EU Forest Strategy will include provisions of key relevance for the future of the forest sector, the undersigned and their members urge the European Commission to rapidly clear the way for the approval of the EU Forest Strategy by the College and to transmit it for further consideration by the European Parliament and Council.

This message is fully in line with the Advisory Group for Forestry and Cork's resolution of 17 June 2013 and the Standing Forestry Committee's resolution of 28 June 2013.

Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)



Aljoscha Requardt
Secretary General

European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)



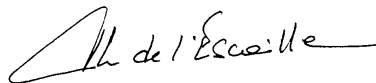
Piotr Borkowski
Executive Director

European farmers and European agri-cooperatives (Copa-Cogeca)



Pekka Pesonen
Secretary-General

European Landowners' Organization (ELO)



Thierry de l'Escaille
Secretary-General

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois)



Philip Buisseret
Secretary General

Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)



Teresa Presas
Director General