10.12.2014

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on ‘A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector’ (2014/2223(INI))

Rapporteur: Marek Józef Gróbarczyk
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that the responsibility for forestry rests solely with the Member States, that the principle of subsidiarity must be upheld, and that the differences in regional conditions, ownership models and priorities across the Member States must be respected;

2. Acknowledges that the EU has a role to play in supporting national policies aimed at achieving multifunctional and sustainable forest management, in strengthening cooperation in the face of increased cross-border threats such as forest fires, illegal logging and pests, and in ensuring coherence on forest-related issues across EU policies such as those relating to agriculture, biodiversity, renewable energy, water and soil;

3. Supports Member States’ commitment to implementing sustainable forest management in line with the Forest Europe criteria and indicators as one of the key elements of the current policy framework for forests in Europe;

4. Welcomes the prioritisation of the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) as a strong basis from which to support resource efficiency, increase competitiveness, boost employment and strengthen forestry’s role in the green economy;

5. Considers that the objective included in the EU Forest Strategy of enhancing the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation must take full account of the economic, social, cultural and environmental goods and services sourced from forests, in particular the important role that forests play in reducing CO₂ emissions, which is an important element of EU climate policy;

6. Supports the carrying out of a cost assessment of all EU legislation affecting the value chains of forest-based industries, with a view to cutting out all unnecessary and burdensome bureaucracy and increasing the industry’s long-term competitiveness in a sustainable manner.