

# EU FOREST STRATEGY

**Joint AGRI-ENVI-ITRE public hearing  
European Parliament, Brussels, 4 December 2017  
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# KEY MESSAGES

## What:

- EU Forest Strategy is a very good document
- Key challenges remains: How to enhance coherence and coordination?
- Forests and SFM are bridging elements between rural, urban and industrial, as well as local, national and global environments

## How:

There is a possibility and a need to improve its implementation; policy preparation – policy implementation – review/assessment

## Who:

Together; Commission DG's, MS, Parliament, Standing Forestry Committee and other groups and actors

## Way forward:

- Forests is part of a solution, continue delivering
- Keep forest issues high on the agenda also beyond 2019 (New Commission and Parliament)



# EU FOREST STRATEGY; STRENGTHS

- SFM and multifunctionality
- Covers forests, forestry and whole forest-based sector; balance with pillars of sustainable development
- Coherence with other policies and instruments (e.g. Rural Development, Biodiversity, Bioeconomy, FLEGT; etc.)
- Logical implementation framework:
  - Strategy -> Multi Year Action Plan -> yearly work programmes and reports to the Parliament -> mid-term review
  - Role of Standing Forestry Committee and other groups
- A number of useful actions (e.g. studies) carried out but the question remains: what has been the effectiveness of EU Forest Strategy?



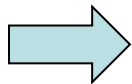
# EXPERIENCES FROM IMPLEMENTATION

- **Working together – positive examples:**
  - a) The preparation of Strategy was done jointly by MS and Commission; joint working group before the Commission published the Communication
  - b) Working group (MS and Commission) to develop SFM criteria that can be applied in different policy context regardless of the end use of biomass -> risk based approach
  - c) Cooperation between SFC, Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork, Expert Group on Forest-based Industries
  - d) Reporting to the Parliament, e.g. public hearing to assess the progress



# EXPERIENCES FROM IMPLEMENTATION

- **Room for improvement, examples:**
  - a) The Commission proposal on LULUCF regulation (7/2016):
    - Major policy area, was not much reflected in the EU Forest Strategy
    - The information base (incl. Impact Assessment) was uncertain and incomplete socio-economic analysis
    - Was it coherent with different policies: climate, renewable energy, growth, jobs, rural development, bio-economy?
  - b) An analytical study on impacts (costs, benefits, coherence) of policies and legislation affecting forest-based industry value chain implemented, but no visible follow-up



**Is our information base good enough for efficient/effective policies?**





# WHAT TO EMPHASISE MORE IN FUTURE?

- Update links and coherence with the forthcoming policies and evolving instruments and continue having forest a prominent role; bioeconomy strategy, rural development, investments, innovations, etc.
- Strengthen information base;
  - modular approach to forest information interesting (e.g. FISE, EFFIS) but work has not advanced much lately
  - more weight and better tools to address economic and social impacts of policies
  - science – policy – practice interphase
  - application of new technologies
- Focus on SFM and whole value chain at all levels (international – EU – MS – local); E.g. consideration of international “action plan on deforestation” -> why not “Action Plan on SFM”?



# HOW TO IMPLEMENT BETTER IN FUTURE?

- SFC: more meetings, more intensive work, not only implementation but also policy preparation (working groups and task forces) -> additional resources needed to deliver better
- Enhance coherence and cooperation
  - Between different groups and actors
  - Engagement of all DGs, enhanced cooperation and coherence
  - MS need to do their homework
- EU/CION does not need to do everything by itself; make better use of international processes and organizations (e.g. on forest information)
- Look beyond traditional/conventional forest spheres; think outside box
- Communication



# WAY FORWARD

- 1) Continue joint implementation of EU Forest Strategy
- 2) Proper review of EU Forest Strategy
- 3) Ensure that forests and Forest Strategy will be top priorities in the new Parliament and the Commission beyond 2019/2020
- 4) Work actively with and within other related EU processes; Rural Development, bio-economy, biodiversity, climate and energy, etc.
- 5) Continue working actively with and within regional and international organizations

