

**Question for written answer E-000784/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Forestry sector in the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy

One of the objectives of both strategies is the strict protection of 'all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests', and their inventory and monitoring. However, there are no precise definitions in the document, in particular of the terms 'strict protection', 'restoration', 'primary forests' and 'old-growth forests'.

A similar problem concerns the Commission's plans to present a legislative proposal in 2021 to avoid or minimise the placing on the EU market of products linked with deforestation or forest degradation.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission respond to the allegation that the strategies' objectives encroach on the competence of the Member States in the area of forest management, which could result in far-reaching changes in the way forest resources are managed in many Member States, and in Poland's case in the destruction of a multifunctional and sustainable economic model?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure the effective participation of Member States in drawing up the definitions referred to above, in particular of 'products associated with deforestation or forest degradation' and 'forest degradation'?