1. There is no common EU approach as regards establishing and implementing forest management plans. In most EU Member States, national forest legislation requires forest owners to have a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in place. There is no EU legislation for a one-stop for the approval of forest management plans. Member States decide how to implement any obligations stemming from EU legislation that is relevant for forests, while ensuring compliance with EU legislation.

2. The Commission has not had cause to investigate the cork processing sector recently. It therefore has no specific knowledge of the degree of concentration in this sector. Should any issues involving restrictions of competition arise due to any party’s market power in this sector, these can be addressed by the Commission using its powers under Regulation (EU) No 1/2003\(^1\) to apply Articles 101 and 102 TFEU, following its standard procedures.

3. In the EU, the placing on the market and use of plant protection products (PPPs) is regulated by Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009\(^2\). Following the approval of an active substance by the Commission, Member States may authorise the placing on the market and the use of PPPs containing approved substances upon applications from industry. Member States have the responsibility to assess and, if applicable, authorise specific uses of PPPs. Member States can also grant national emergency autorisations in case no other tools are available to combat a specific plant pest (Article 53) or take measures to facilitate or encourage the submission of applications to extend the authorisations already authorised for minor uses such as uses on cork oak trees (Article 51). According to the information available to the Commission, several PPP-uses to protect cork-oaks are authorised in Spain.

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