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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the new EU forest strategy for 2030 – sustainable forest management in Europe
(2022/0000(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Luisa Regimenti

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the forestry sector is an essential contributor to achieving the EU target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030, while also being a major source of biodiversity and playing an important role in the lives of communities;
 - B. whereas forests in the EU are exceptionally diverse and provide many benefits for society, as well as being a substantial source of employment and economic growth;
 - C. whereas a vision based on sustainable forest management appears to be necessary to uphold and reconcile ecological, economic and social values;
1. Welcomes the Commission's decision to introduce a new forest strategy; stresses the role of the forest-based bio-economy in mitigating climate change; stresses the multi-faceted role of forests and recalls that forest protection and habitat conservation are complementary to forests' economic and social role;
 2. Emphasises the importance of incentivising the sustainable use and management of forest resources, products and services and supporting a vibrant forest sector; welcomes the re- and afforestation roadmap for planting at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030 and reiterates the importance of protecting primary and old-growth forests;
 3. Notes that the progressive abandonment of forests and lack of forest management diminishes their potential as carbon sinks and sources of employment, increases dependency on imports and heightens the risk of forest fires;
 4. Highlights the need for the forest strategy to fully comply with the principle of subsidiarity; expresses its concern about one-size-fits-all solutions, which overlook the fact that European forests are diverse and therefore require tailor-made forest management solutions;
 5. Recalls the importance of an advanced cooperation strategy involving all relevant actors at all levels of policymaking in order to carefully and thoroughly evaluate the best ways to achieve the targets of the forest strategy.