DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward (2019/2157(INI))

Rapporteur: Mauri Pekkarinen
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 into its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines that there is no specific legal basis for a common EU forest policy; points out, however, that many EU policies have an impact on forests and the forest-based sector and require stronger cross-sectoral coordination;

2. Notes that European forest-based industries help decarbonise Europe by replacing CO2-intensive raw materials and fossil energy with forest-based alternatives such as biogas and biofuel, and therefore help in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal;

3. Notes that forest-based industry is a key driving force behind the circular bioeconomy; encourages the Member States to support recyclable and bio-based products through public procurement and investment support;

4. Encourages the use of wood as an environmentally friendly raw material; underlines that wood-based products and wood construction provide an effective way of increasing carbon storage;

5. Calls on the Member States to ensure the timely and adequate implementation of the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)\(^1\);

6. Stresses that there is a continued need for sustained support for forest-related research and innovation throughout the forest value chain, including wood-based products to be used as plastic substitute packaging materials, smart and clothing fibres and medicines;

7. Calls for adequate funding for Horizon Europe and for the strengthening of links between research, industry and society through specific instruments such as European Partnerships;

8. Stresses the need for sustainable forest management, and the regional and economic importance of forests.