Bundesministerium
Nachhaltigkeit und
Tourismus

bmnt.gv.at

Communication in the context of the EU Forest Strategy

Ingwald Gschwandtl
Head of Forest Policy, Forest Economics and Forest Information
Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism - AUSTRIA

Forests in the EU

- 43 % of EU land area are forests or other wooded land
- Most significant renewable resource of EU
- Forest based products and ecosystem services contribute significantly to overall EU objectives :
  - Growth and employment
  - Rural development
  - Climate protection
  - Renewable energy
  - Biodiversity
  - Bioeconomie
  - Sustainable Development Goals

Forest Policy in the EU

- No common forest policy
- Subsidiarity – Forestry exclusive competency of Member States
- Many EU-Policies affecting forestry

EU Policies relevant for Forestry - 2005

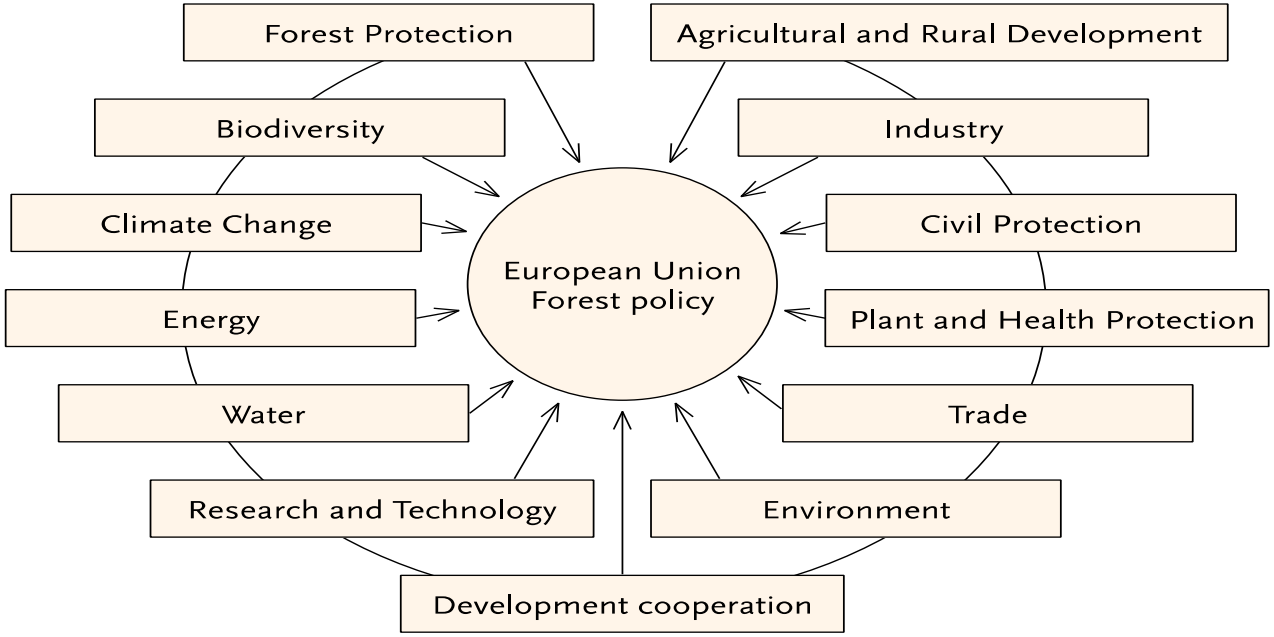

Figure 1. Policy areas relevant for forest policy in the EU (Modified from Pülzl 2005).

EU Policies relevant for Forestry – 2016 – COHERENCE?

- CAP
- EU Forest Strategy and MAP
- 7th Environment Action Programme
- Invasive Alien Species Regulation
- Public procurement
- Plant health control regulation
- Sustainability criteria for biomass
- FOREST EUROPE
- 2030 Climate and Energy Framework
- Renewable Energy Directive II
- CEN sustainability criteria bio-based products
- Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate change
- Framework Programme 9
- ILUC
- LULUCF Regulation
- Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- RPM Regulation
- Mapping of Ecosystem Services (MAES)
- Bioeconomy Strategy
- Energy Union
- CAP post 2020 - Rural Development
- State Aid Rules
- Horizon 2020
- EU Timber Regulation
- NATURA2000
- Green Infrastructure
- Water Framework Directive
- Effort Sharing Regulation
- Habitat Directive
- Birds Directive
- No Net Loss

DG AGRI | DG ENV | DG RTD | DG CLIMA | DG ENER | DG GROW | DG SANTE | EUROPE

Quelle: CEPF mod.

Strive for holistic approach, influence and coherence

EU Forest Strategy 1

‚A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector'

- Released by the **Commission** on 20 September 2013
- The Agriculture and Fisheries **Council** adopted **Conclusions** on 19 May 2014
- The European **Parliament** adopted a **Resolution** on 29 April 2015
- The **Economic and Social Committee** adopted an **Opinion** on the 10 July 2014
- The **Committee of the Regions** adopted an **Opinion** on the 30 January 2014

= political committment - no legal instrument

EU Forest Strategy 2

- **Defines Sustainable Forest Management:**

‚Sustainable forest management means using forests and forest land in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.‘

(FOREST EUROPE Definition)

EU Forest Strategy 3

- **Guiding principles**
  - Sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests, delivering multiple goods and services in a balanced way and ensuring forest protection
  - Resource efficiency, optimising the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation
  - Global forest responsibility, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products

EU Forest Strategy

- **2020 Forest Objectives**
  - To ensure and demonstrate that all forests in the EU are managed according to **sustainable forest management** principles and that the EU's contribution to promoting sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation at global level is strengthened, thus:
    - contributing to **balancing various forest functions**, meeting demands, and delivering vital ecosystem services;
    - providing a basis for forestry and the **whole forest-based value chain to be competitive** and viable contributors to the bio-based economy.

EU Forest Strategy

- **Eight linked priority areas: value for everyone**

➢ **Sustainable forest management contributes to major societal objectives**

- Supporting our rural and urban communities
- Fostering the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU's Forest-based Industries, bio-energy and the wider green economy
- Forests in a changing climate
- Protecting forests and enhancing ecosystem services

➢ **Improving the knowledge base**

- What forests do we have and how are they changing?
- New and innovative forestry and added-value products

➢ **Fostering coordination and communication**

- Working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests
- Forests from a global perspective

EU Forest Strategy

Fostering coordination and communication

– Working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests

Various crosscutting policy issues address forests, and their objectives sometimes differ. Coordination, cooperation and communication are therefore essential to achieving policy coherence and consistency.

Various options to improve coordination and implementation were discussed with Member States, including a framework directive on sustainable forest management. However, no consensus on going beyond a voluntary approach was found. In any case, links with forest-related policies must be improved.

The current EU forest governance structure relies on the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC). The SFC should remain the forum for discussing all forest-related issues, ensuring coordination and coherence of forest-related policies. However, improvements are needed to ensure that the SFC responds to inputs from other policies. The SFC worked with the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork, the Habitat Committee and the Expert Group on Natura 2000 management to jointly prepare the guide on Natura 2000 and forests – this could be used as best practice. Also, more emphasis could be put on the SFC's role of keeping forests multi-functional.

The Advisory Committee on Forestry and Cork will remain the main multi-stakeholder platform for discussing issues related to forestry and sustainable forest management, and the Advisory Committee on Forest-based Industries will remain the main platform for issues related to industrial value chains. These three fora should be the cornerstones for developing and following up on the new strategy.

Communication is a particular challenge for the sector, as the public is generally not aware of how significant sustainable forest management is, or of the various ways in which the forest sector contributes to the green economy.

EU Forest Strategy

- **Fostering coordination and communication**
  - Working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests

Strategic orientations:

- The Commission will ensure that the Standing Forestry Committee's work builds on other EU policies relevant for forests and the forest sector, ensuring that managing EU forests remains multifunctional;

- The Commission and the Member States will explore various options for better coordination of sustainable forest management, harmonised forest information and cooperation between and with Member States;

- The Commission will create a European Forest Bureau Network (National Forest Inventories – NFI) to develop harmonised criteria for NFI data. Complementary work is planned through COST actions and research projects;

- Member States should improve public information about forests and wood, and build on the EU Forest Communication Strategy developed by the SFC;

- The Commission will further assess public perception of forests (via a Eurobarometer survey by 2015).

EU Forest Strategy - Mid Term Review 2018

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.12.2018
COM(2018) 811 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Progress in the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy

'A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest sector'

EU Forest Strategy – Mid Term Review 2018

➢ Working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests

Coordination, cooperation and communication are necessary to balance different sectoral policy objectives and approaches. The Strategy aims at reinforcing governance and communication, in particular through the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC), the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork (CDG-FC), and the Expert Group on Forest-based Industries and Sectorally Related Issues (F-BI EG).

The SFC continues to be the main forum for discussion on EU forests and forest-related issues and the implementation of the Strategy. Its information and debate sessions on all relevant EU policy initiatives are based on annual work programmes that build on and are coherent with the Forest MAP. The SFC emitted opinions and reports[29] that were transmitted to the relevant policymakers. At the SFC, Member States share their experiences, initiatives, knowledge and advice. The SFC occasionally met stakeholders (CDG-FC) and sectoral expert groups (e.g. on biodiversity).

The Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork meets twice a year and has an observer chair in the SFC. It delivered resolutions showing the stakeholders' joint vision on topics such as the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the role of forestry in the CAP.

The EG-FBI has operated since 2014, focusing so far on trade issues, especially with "Neighbourhood" States, the EUTR review and the cascading use of biomass.

The plan to set up a European Forest Bureau Network has not materialised. Yet, the European National Forest Inventory Network (ENFIN) and several EU-support research actions are working towards a more harmonised forest information in Europe.

The results of the 2015 Eurobarometer survey on the public perception of the benefits provided by forests suggest the need for a better communication on the importance of sustainably managed forests. The approach taken by the EU Forest Communication Strategy provides a sound basis to reflect how to address these needs.

EU Forest Strategy – Mid Term Review 2018

➢ Conclusion

.....

.....

The continued implementation of the Strategy, supported by the EU budget, will help the EU forests, covering 40% of the territory, to contribute effectively to territorial balance, growth and jobs in rural and urban areas, support the forest-based sector to stay competitive and the bioeconomy to develop, while protecting biodiversity and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services. **Communicating the value and importance of well-managed forests to the society, thus ensuring strong societal support for sustainable forest management, is essential to underpin these goals.**

- EU Policies impacting forestry

- The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy 2018
- Renwewable Energy Directive II
- LULUCF Regulation
- Sustainable Financing
- Common Agriculture Policy
- e. a.

Relevant Players for Forest related EU Policies

Policy and Administration
Council
Commission
Parliament
Committee of the Regions
Economic and Social Committee
Member States

Science and Information
Loint Research Centre (JRC)
Eurostat
European Environment Agency EEA
COST
European Forest Institute EFI
EFPRO InnovaWood
FTP BBI-JU

NGOs
Birdlife
EBCD
EEB
FERN
WWF

Forest Owners
CEPF
Copa-Cogeca
ELO
EUSTAFOR

Pulp and Paper
CEPI

Wood Industries
CEI-Bois
EOS
EPF

Forestry in the European Union

Ingwald Gschwandtl
Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

© Österreich Werbung