Current trends in the state forest policy of the Czech Republic

Tomáš Krejzar
Director of Department of Forest Policy and Economies
Forestry Section of the Ministry of Agriculture

Deputy Minister for Forestry

- Department of Forest Management Planning and Protection
- Department of Forest Policy and Economies
- Department of Forestry, Game Management and Fishery State Administration
Main tasks of the Forestry Section of the Ministry of Agriculture

• to create comprehensive concepts for the long-term development of the forestry sector and forest policy;
• to assess and update forestry legislation, including implementation of relevant EU legislation;
• to fulfil its function as a founder of the Forests of the Czech Republic, state enterprise;
• to elaborate and control the methodology of financing in the forestry sector and of informatics and statistics;
Main tasks of the Forestry Section of the Ministry of Agriculture

- to run forest state administration, including the fields of forest categories, forest management planning, forest protection, gene resource protection and marketing of forest reproductive material;
- to run state administration in the field of placing timber and timber products on the market;
- to guide and control the activities of regional and district authorities in the field of state administration in forestry and game management;
- to co-ordinate the monitoring of forest health conditions.
Forestry institutions related to the Ministry of Agriculture

Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise

Forest Management Institute

Forestry and Game Management Research Institute
EU legislation related to forestry

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1305/2013 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Rural Development Regulation)
- Regulation No. 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (EU Timber Regulation)
International commitments

- resolutions of United Nations Forum on Forests
- declarations, resolutions and decisions of Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe/Forest Europe
- new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector
- Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy
- Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) – Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management
Strategic documents and legislation at the national level

**Legislation:**
- Forest Act;
- Nature and Landscape Protection Act;
- Act on Marketing of Forest Reproductive Material;
- Act on Placing Timber and Timber Products on the Market.

**Strategic documents:**
- National Forest Programme (2008),
- Principles of State Forestry Policy (2012),
- Governmental Programme Declaration (2014).
National Forest Programme

- approved by the resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1221 of 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2008
- for the period until 2013
- 17 key actions (KA)

- **MAIN PRIORITIES:**
  - **Improvement of long-term competitiveness of the forest sector**
    - KA 1: To increase economic viability and competitiveness of SFM
    - KA 2: To promote research and technology development with a view of increasing forest sector competitiveness
    - KA 3: To enhance valuation and marketing of forest non-wood benefits and services
    - KA 4: To promote the use of forest biomass for energy generation
    - KA 5: To support cooperation between forest owners
National Forest Programme
Main priorities (continuation):

- **Improvement and protection of environment**
  - KA 6: To alleviate impacts of expected global climate change and extreme meteorological events
  - KA 7: To conserve and enhance forest biodiversity
  - KA 8: To enhance forest monitoring
  - KA 9: To improve healthy status and protection of forests
  - KA 10: To alleviate impacts of older and current ecological loads
  - KA 11: To achieve balance between the forest and game

- **Improvement of quality of life**
  - KA 12: To improve social situation of forest workers
  - KA 13: To increase contribution of forests and forestry to rural development

- **Improvement of coordination and communication**
  - KA 14: To improve weak position of forestry within public administration
  - KA 15: To enhance public awareness about the real status of forests and needs of forestry
  - KA 16: To resolve institutional relations of the state to forests and forestry
  - KA 17: State forests
Principles of State Forestry Policy

- approved by the resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 854 of 21st November 2012

- 5 main goals of the state forestry policy:
  - To ensure maintenance of forests and forest land for future generations
  - To improve economic viability of forest management
  - To increase biodiversity in forest ecosystems, their integrity and ecological stability
  - To enhance importance of forests and forest management for economic development of rural areas
  - To enhance importance of education, research and innovations in forest management

- Basic measures for achieving the main goals
- Basis for amendments of the Forest and Game Management Acts
Main messages:

Chapter 3. Agriculture and Rural Development

• „We will change the ways of contracting of Forest of the Czech Republic, state enterprise, with more attention to development of small and medium-sized forestry and timber industry enterprises, where we are planning to create hundreds of job positions. Especially in mountain and foothill areas.“
• „We are not going to privatize the state forests.“
• „We shall establish, by law, the inalienability of state-owned forests.“
• „Forest of the Czech Republic, state enterprise, have to actively contribute to sustainable and stable employment in the regions.“

Chapter 4. Healthy environment and Sustainable Development

Protection of the nature and landscape (waters, landscape, forests)

• „We will stabilize biological diversity, especially the protection of forest stands. To do this, we use prudent management in forestry and agriculture, and current network of protected areas.“
• „We will consider to proclaim new protected areas or national parks.“
Tackling climate change

- profound events of drought
- dieback of Norway spruce in lower altitudes (especially Northern Moravia)
- actual tree species composition (3/4 of conifers, 1/4 of broadleaves) differs from the natural one (1/3 of conifers, 2/3 of broadleaves)
- need to adapt forests (including changing tree species composition)
- need to adapt wood processing industry
- forest law – obligation to plant minimum percentage of soil-improving and stabilizing species
- subsidies – from regions, government, Rural Development Programme
- thanks to these measures more than 77,000 ha of Norway spruce stand have been changed to other tree species (beech, oak) since 2000
Supporting development of small and medium enterprises

New or continued subsidies:

• Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020
  – Machinery and technologies for forest management
  – Forestry infrastructure
  – Technical equipment for wood-working enterprises

• Supporting and Guarantee Agricultural and Forestry Fund
  – Support to purchase of machinery for forest management
  – Support to purchase of technical equipment for wood-working enterprises
  – Support to forest nurseries on forest lands
  – Insurance of forest stands

New concept of strategic development of the Forests of the Czech Republic, state enterprise, 2015 - 2019
New concept of strategic development of the Forests of the Czech Republic, state enterprise, 2015 - 2019

To be presented by Dr. Daniel Szórád, director general, tomorrow.
Thank you for your attention!

Contact address:
Tomáš Krejzar
Department of Forest Policy and Economics
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
tel.: +420 221 812 677
e-mail: tomas.krejzar@mze.cz