

## EU FOREST STRATEGY AND AGENDA 2030 – WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

Finland organized a workshop on EU forest strategy and Agenda 2030 on 28 Oct 2019 in Brussels as part of its EU Council Presidency activities. This was follow-up for the discussion in EU Forest Director Generals' meeting in Finland in September 2019, and Agriculture and Forestry Council discussion by ministers on the topic in October 2019.

Workshop on 28 Oct gathered about 45 participants from 20 Member States (AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK), UNFF, FAO and the Commission (DG AGRI and DG ENV). DG DEVCO was invited to participate, but was not able to attend. DG AGRI, DG ENV and UNFF presentations were followed by participatory group work. Groups focused on United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and Global Forest Goals, EU Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests, and Agenda 2030. Each group came up with recommendations on how to connect the three international initiatives (Agenda 2030, Global Forest Goals, the EU Communication) to the future EU forest strategy. Participants found the exercise very useful, and Commission welcomed it (DG AGRI). Group work results, especially the recommendations, can be used to support the preparation of new EU forest strategy.

### Group works results: Agenda 2030

#### **Recommendations: how to link the future EUFS to Agenda 2030**

- Identify which SDGs EU MS have in common and where they are complementary to each other – possibility to find common ground among the MS and start building the strategy from a positive cooperation
- Consider the forest system in a holistic perception
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Recognize full value chain
- Link EUFS actions to particular SDGs and GFGs
- Forest way of thinking: Do the translation, make link visible between EUFS action and SDG targets – Communication with people outside the forestry sphere is needed to make SFM understood and accepted
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation: how to ensure the resilience of forests?
- Sustainability – SFM, job creation – green economy
- Set benchmarks in general

- Make information available for other Member States, e.g. best practice databank
- SDG targets are good but there needs to be consideration about what is politically acceptable
- Investigate the economic advantages of having an EU forest strategy
- Mobilization of timber
- Ecosystem services
- Demonstrate SFM in EU

## Group work results: Global Forest Goals and EU forest strategy

### **Recommendations: How to connect EU forest strategy to Global Forest Goals?**

- Show leadership by using global forest goals in regional strategy
- Strengthen / use existing mechanisms (such as CBD, food security)
- Linkages to GFGs underlines the importance of forests in addressing many global challenges
- New EUFS needs international responsibility for SFM chapter
- Some items of GFGs should be inserted in the EU forest strategy with clear objectives for Member States
- GFGs touch topics spread at EU level at different DGs – need for coherent platform to address holistically
- Forest related objectives the same at national, EU, global level
- Use global forest goals as a checklist when preparing new EUFS
- United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) as a coordination tool at UN level = EUFS as a coordination tool at EU level

## Group work results: Communication on “Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests”

### **Recommendations: How to connect EU forest strategy to the Communication?**

- The FS must be broader in scope than the communication
- The FS should address a broader set of issues than the communication, e.g. bioeconomy, environment, R & D
- Learn from existing initiatives (e.g. FLEGT, EU TR)
- Strengthening FLEGT, EUTR
- Communication with society

- More attention on partnership
- Both documents should be in line with each other, not parallel documents, but EUFS overarching
- Indicate clear actions and relative resources