

Brussels, 13 OCT. 2010
C/2010/7147

Dear Ms Kinberg Batra,

The European Commission would like to thank the Swedish Parliament for having examined the Green Paper on forest protection and information {COM(2010) 66} and for having provided its opinion on the issue. This opinion constitutes valuable input to the consultation process and will be examined in depth.

The European Commission would like to stress the consultative nature of the paper in question and would like to inform the Swedish Parliament that it will present to the Standing Forestry Committee a summary report on the results of the ongoing public consultation in which it will also announce the likely next steps.

With respect to the comments made at this stage by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture of the Swedish Parliament, the European Commission has taken note of the Committee's view that forest policy should primarily stay under Member States' competence, while at the same time the EU has to assure added value in the fields of plant health, forest monitoring and reporting and research by anticipating global trends and by coordinating early action taken at EU level. It is also noted that, in the Committee's opinion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting biodiversity merits attention and requires action on adaptation and mitigation as well.

The views expressed by the Riksdag, in particular as regards the challenges described in the Commission's Green Paper are highly appreciated.

The European Commission is looking forward to the future discussion on the issue of forest protection and information.

Yours sincerely,

*Ms Anna Kinberg Batra
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