European Commission

Green Paper on Forest Protection and Information in the EU

Adopted 01/03/2010

Public consultation
Origin of this Green Paper

  - KA 6 : EU compliance with UNFCCC/KP + adaptation to the effects of climate change
  - KA 8 : Work towards a European Forest Monitoring System
  - KA 9: Enhance the protection of EU forests

  - Launching a debate on forest protection and information
  - Adapting the EU Forestry Strategy
Impacts of Climate Change on forests

- Increase in water stress
- Increased risk of storm damage
- Increased fire risk in terms of frequency and scale
- Changes in nutrient balance in soils
- Northward/altitude migration of tree species
- Increase in insect outbreaks, e.g. of bark beetles
- Forest dieback

Rapid changes may affect ecosystem stability and forest functions
What is at stake

- Trees and soil as sinks or sources of carbon (trend of interaction with the atmosphere)
- Output of forest products that can act as sink during their useful life
- High expectations for bio-energy supply, especially with current bio-fuels debate
- Ecological functions that are essential to the earth’s life supporting systems

Forest protection = mitigation and adaptation to climate change
The process

- Forest protection policy study - 2009
- March- July 2010 GP PUBLIC CONSULT.
- April 2010 : Valsaín Declaration on Forest protection
- June 2010 : Council conclusions on forest protection and information
- Sept 2010 : Opinion of the EESC
- Opinion of CoR expected end 2010
- Own initiative report of the European Parliament, expected March - April 2011
### The questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adequate forest functions balance?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Readiness of the sector to face the climate challenges?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EU early action needed?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Are existing EU/MS policies adequate? If not what should be done?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Does SFM need to be updated from a climate change perspective? How?</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Is the existing forest information adequate? If not what should be done?</td>
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### Response by functional groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Replies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>business and industry</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>governments and public bodies</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliaments &amp; elected bodies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>forest owners &amp; private persons</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>research and academia</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>262</strong></td>
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</table>

262 replies received = a success?  
Caution: NOT a statistical survey!
Response by MS

number of replies by country

- Number of replies for each country:
  - CY: 0
  - EE: 5
  - LU: 10
  - SI: 15
  - BG: 20
  - CZ: 25
  - HU: 30
  - IE: 35
  - LV: 40
  - PL: 45
  - DK: 50
  - SK: 55
  - NL: 60
  - PT: 65
  - RO: 70
  - BE: 75
  - EL: 80
  - AT: 85
  - UK: 90
  - ES: 95
  - SE: 100
  - EU: 105
  - FI: 110
  - IT: 115
  - DE: 120
  - FR: 125
Response by language

number of replies by language

language 1

number of reply

EN  DE  FR  IT  ES  SE  PT  NL  LV  DK  FI  GR  HU  LT  SI  SK

30/11/2010
Government/public bodies

What is most often mentioned:

- Need to revise the EU FS and the EU FAP
- Lack of readiness to face climate change
- Insufficiency of EU and MS policy on climate change
- SFM as a dynamic concept / continuous updating
- More co-ordinated EU forest information desirable
Business and industry

- What is most often mentioned:
  - Problem with many demands on forests affecting competitiveness (mainly env.)
  - EU should promote wood, enable SFM
  - High concern about competition for raw material with bio-E > wood hierarchy
  - Intensification of forestry, more active forest management
  - Improve forest information
Forest owners/private

- What is most mentioned:
  - More attention for balancing forest functions at all policy levels
  - Optimism about readiness of forests for climate change > use forests for carbon sequestration, materials, energy
  - Early action: training, PES systems, management guidelines, support schemes
  - Need to update SFM
  - Need for better forest information
NGOs

- What is most mentioned:
  - Better balance of forest functions means more attention for environment
  - Forests are not ready for climate change
    - More information and research needed
    - Revision of EU FAP and FS
  - SFM to be updated, more precise, more prescriptive guidelines, biodiv. Standards
  - EU forest info system based on NFIs
Research community

- A larger variety of opinions than in other groups:
  - Better balance of forest functions is needed to get ready for climate change
  - Updating SFM: biodiv. prot. / raising output
  - Calls for continuing monitoring and EFFIS
  - A proposal for a forest fires directive
  - A lot remains to be done on forest information, actual situation very uneven across MS, minimum standards for EU
Points of convergence

What do people agree on?

1. Need for harmonized forest information

2. Continue and enhance support for research on climate change and its effects

3. Need for forest gene pool conservation

4. Most affected region: Med zone > forest fires

5. Continue EU support for forest sector through RD measures
Differences

- Most obvious antagonisms
  - EU forest policy vs. Subsidiarity (N/S)
  - Protection by use / by conservation
  - Intensification vs. close to nature management
  - Financing yes / legislation no
  - Level for action on forests (local/ nat/ EU / UN)
What next?


- Further steps in the process:
  - Studies (ongoing in different DGs)
  - Report on Stakeholder/Institutional consultation (end 2010)
  - Comprehensive report as requested by Council (2011)
  - Eventually: impact assessment of possible measures (2011)
  - Eventually: white paper on forest protection and information (2011?)
  - Eventually: legislative proposal (2012?)
Thanks for your attention!

More information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/fprotection.htm