Recent EC initiatives having an impact on forest fire prevention

*****

European Commission
DG Environment, Unit B.3
The past and the present

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 of 23 July 1992 on protection of Community’ forests against fire = prevention measures, monitoring, training, campaigns, etc.
- Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 (Forest Focus) = monitoring, awareness-raising campaigns, training, prevention measures if not covered by the Rural Development Programmes (RDP);
Forest Focus: an overview on EU25 ‘national’ programmes 2003/4

Draft allocation of EU co-financing 2003 - 2004

- Spain: 31.35%
- France: 2.22%
- Cyprus: 1.29%
- Greece: 16.48%
- Germany: 4.70%
- Hungary: 1.43%
- Portugal: 16.77%
- Italy: 21.26%
- Slovakia: 0.18%
“… After the year 2006 any new EU forest Regulation would have to deal with other relevant EU tools like:

- **Future ENV financial framework** in preparation;
- **Financial perspectives 2007/13**: Communication from the Commission to the council and the European Parliament “Building our common future”;
- **Future Rural Development Regulation 2007/13** (reforestation, afforestation, forest improvements, infrastructures) – still under definition;
- **Seventh Framework Programme for Research, 2007/2013** (6 axes) – still under definition."

- Others…?


Priorities for next financial perspectives 2007-2013:
1. The Internal Market must be completed so that it can play its full part in achieving the broader objective of sustainable development;
2. Concept of European citizenship;
3. Europe should project a coherent role as a global partner.
- Details on the main EU policies – “On instrument per policy area, one fund per programme”;
- Concentrating the Community resources on few major initiatives (EU budget limited in size);
- Consistency between different strategic goals, targets and instruments (agriculture, env);

“Better, broader, simpler”, with three objectives;
- Increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector;
- Enhancing the environment and countryside through support for land management;
- Enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of economic activities.

National strategy plan to be submitted(priorities!)
- A wider range of forestry measures is foreseen (afforestation on agricultural and not agricultural land, establishment of agro-forestry systems, Natura2000 payments, forest-environment payments, restoring forestry production potential, support for non-productive investments);
- Forestry measures are more integrated but more scattered in the text;
- Still supported previous measures for forest fires (restoring forestry potential damaged by fires, introducing prevention actions, training).
New Forest Focus?


- Support to the implementation of the 6th Environmental Action Programme and its priorities (Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002);
- Integrated continuation of Life Natura, Life Environment and Forest Focus;
- Support to forest fires “intellectual” measures (monitoring, training, campaigns, information).
Other instruments


Suggestions, questions

- Consistency with the existent framework and suggestions to improve the different proposals;
- Evaluation of the efficiency of previous measures?
- Investigation on EU added value of future actions?
- Concentration on few key activities?
- Problems related to an enlarged – and further enlarging – Union?
- Need of a new forest framework? (EU Forestry Strategy, EU Forest Directive – Convention!)
- Need of planning inside the new LIFE+?
- Need of a better co-ordination at any level?
Thank you for your attention!

Lorenza Colletti, ENV B3
Tel +32 2 2990412