



FOR THE SUB-GROUP OF THE STANDING FORESTRY COMMITTEE
RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW EU FRAMEWORK
FOR FOREST MONITORING AND STRATEGIC PLANS
TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030¹ announces a legislative proposal for a Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection framework. As part of this, Member States' competent authorities would prepare Strategic Plans for forests and the forest based sector.

The main objective of this initiative is to improve forest monitoring by providing timely and comparable data and information across the EU for frequent and cost-efficient reporting on forest-related priority EU policy-relevant topics, such as climate change, biodiversity, health, damages, forest management, and forest use for different socio-economic purposes. Strategic forest plans for EU Member States require reliable monitoring with highest possible spatial and temporal granularity, transparent governance and coordinated exchange at the EU level to deliver on EU objectives, especially the European Green Deal's goals on the transition to a climate neutral and circular economy, the adaptation of Europe's forests to climate change and reversing biodiversity loss. The initiative also links to the objectives of the digital transition to deliver a Europe fit for the digital age. It will empower people, businesses and administrations alike by providing access to forest-related data and making better use of digital technologies.

In the framework of the consultation process that will lead to the adoption of the Commission proposal on a new EU framework for forest monitoring and strategic plans announced for 2023, the support of the competent authorities in charge is key. To this end, pending the setup of the new forest governance, the Commission services decided to set up, based on Article 7 of the Rules of Procedures of the Standing Forestry Committee and in compliance with the Commission horizontal rules on Expert Groups, a temporary sub-group specifically dedicated to forest monitoring and strategic plans.

The mandate of this sub-group will be limited to consultation and advice related to the development of the Commission proposal and will be dissolved once the legal proposal is adopted by the Commission.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with Council Decision of 29 May 1989 (89/367/EEC), the rules of procedure of

¹ COM (2021) 572

the Standing Forestry Committee and the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')².

2. SUBJECT MATTER

The sub-group of the Standing Forestry Committee relating to the development of a proposal for a new EU framework for forest monitoring and strategic plans is set up.

3. TASKS

The sub-group's tasks shall be to assist the Commission in the preparation of the legislative proposal on the new EU framework for forest monitoring and strategic plans by creating a forum to share expert knowledge and existing practices on forest monitoring and development of medium to long-term forest plans in Member States.

The subgroup will submit a report to the Standing Forestry Committee, after the completion of its work.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The sub-group shall be composed of Member States' authorities. Member States' authorities shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise.

Member States' authorities shall ensure the participation of experts that reflect in a balanced way the different policy objectives of the monitoring and strategic plans legislation, including *inter alia* climate, forest health, environment, forestry, rural development and bioeconomy. The membership will reflect the multi-functionality of forests.

5. CHAIR

The sub-group shall be chaired by representatives of the Commission.

6. LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Meetings will be held in virtual mode.

7. LIFESPAN

The sub-group is set up for the duration of the development of the Commission proposal on a framework on forest monitoring and strategic plans.

Done in Brussels, on 16.09.2022.

² C(2016) 3301.