



September 2011

UNION OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS (EU register nr 28640971351-85)
www.european-foresters.eu

Contribution to the Stocktaking Exercise Future EU Forest Strategy

1. Current EU Forestry Strategy

Validity of its principles and values

All topics of the current EU Strategy are still valid; some of them are even more valid now than before. Especially the following topics are to be underlined:

- the multifunctional role of forests as an overall principle for action
- the need of sustainable forest management
- the principle of subsidiarity in the decision making and in the practical implementation of the strategy
- the need of an European Forestry Information and Communication System

Some aspects have changed in their importance:

- the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution has not been a top topic for some years
- the pre-accession measures for the development in applicant countries are mostly done
- the climate change strategies have got a higher priority and related to that, the use of wood, but also the conservation of biodiversity and the protection against forest fires are getting more important

2. State of policy environment

Expectations and demands on the forest sector: challenges and opportunities. New balance?

2.a. Current policy environment

The current policy environment and the society might at the end be asking for more protected areas, in order to keep the biodiversity.

2.b. Emerging demands

The most emerging demand for keeping the biodiversity seems to be fighting the climate change. An active sustainable forestry and use of wood is one main tool for fighting climate change. A protected tree stand might in many cases lose in biodiversity when the average temperature is rising some degrees. The good balance between an active forestry and protection should continue.

Sustainable forestry is still able to work for both targets without new protected and unproductive areas, if forestry is able to work "close to nature". An active sustainable forestry is also in the best way supporting the employment in the whole society and especially in the forest and forestry sector.

The message about foresters and forest sector taking care of the sustainability in the forests in all aspects is very important to be noticed in the whole society.

3. (National) Priorities and expectations for the new EU Forestry Strategy

How the EU Forestry Strategy can help your particular country to develop the forest policy; role and links between the National Forest Programs (or other related instruments) and the Forestry Strategy

As mentioned in the meeting, while MS will look at their "national" reality, we ask stakeholders to reply to the questions looking at the reality of the sector they represent.

Seen from the stakeholders side, who are caring for the people working in forestry, social demands are missing in the strategy and should be included in the new one. Up to now only the social demands of society are included in the Forestry Strategy.

Beside the forest owners, the professional foresters, forest workers and forest entrepreneurs are key actors in the important sector of forestry. They ensure in all aspects a multipurpose use of forests, the best forest management and wood procurement also in challenging times.

It is important to ensure the human resources and the quality of work in the forest sector. The resources are now cut down, even rapidly in many countries of Europe. The forests, the nature and the whole society and its economy are suffering of under-dimensioned human resources in the forest sector.