

SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES - THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF EU FORESTS

Brussels, European Parliament, 21st. January 2020

SLOVENIAN INSIGHT on the MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF FORESTS and PROMOTING NATURE-BASED FORESTRY

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
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Slovenian Forest Act (since 1993):

Article 1, subsection 1:

This Act regulates the silviculture, protection, harvest and use of forests as well as the disposal of forests as a natural asset with the aim of providing **sustainable, close-to-nature** and **multi-purpose** management in accordance with the principles of protection of the environment and natural values, permanent and optimal functioning of forests as an ecosystem and the fulfilment of their functions.

Article 3, subsection 5: Forest functions are

ecological: the function of forest soil protection and stands, hydrological function, function of conservation of biodiversity and climate function;

social: protective function – protection of built structures, recreational, tourism-related, educational, research, hygienic-health function, the function of protection of natural values, the function of protection of cultural heritage, defense and aesthetic function;

and **production:** wood production, acquisition of other forest goods, and hunting economy

How Slovenia implemented these obligations in practice?

Forest management plans are obligatory for all forests, regardless of ownership and property size.

These plans are prepared by the Slovenia Forest Service and financed from the Republic of Slovenia state budget.

Production, ecological and social functions are defined by their degree and area.

Defined functions need to be respect by all activities in the forest.

What has changed in the past 27 years?

- The use of the social functions of forests has increased significantly (more and more people do outdoor activities in the forests, developing tourism in the forests).
- Demand for timber has also increased (timber industry and the use of timber for energy and material- goal to meet EU renewables targets).
- Increased climate change consequences (disturbances in forests, following excessive bark beetle attacks, drying of some tree species,...).
- People's awareness of the importance for protection of forests and enhancing biodiversity has also increased significantly.

How will we deal with these challenges?

With sustainable,
close-to-nature and
multi-purpose forest management.



Recently it seems that ecological and social functions of the forest have been in the foreground, however we should not forget the **importance of productive functions** of the forests (alongside).

Income from forest is particularly important for rural areas. Slovenian territory covers 72,3 % hilly and mountains areas. The livelihood of farmers in these areas heavily depend on income from forests.

Preservation, enhancing and development of rural areas is one of the targets of both, Slovenia and the EU.

Therefore the productive function of forest needs to be given an appropriate role.

Further steps:

- 20 ministers, responsible for the forestry, already support the preparation of the **new EU forest strategy (post 2020)**
- European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2020 on the **European Green Deal** (2019/2956(RSP)), line 72:

(The European Parliament) Calls on the Commission to present a new, ambitious EU Forest Strategy to give appropriate recognition to the important, multifunctional and cross-cutting role that European forests, the sector and sustainable forest management have in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, also taking **social, economic and environmental aspects** into account; recalls the need for action to combat illegal logging in Europe; stresses that afforestation, reforestation and restoration efforts should aim at enhancing biodiversity as well as carbon storage;

We believe that the **European Commission can, with close cooperation of the member states, prepare a new, ambitious EU Forest Strategy** to address the current challenges.

A new, EU Forest Strategy must be an equal part of the **Green Deal**.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FOOD**

Slovenia in 2019:

25 Years of Slovenia Forest Service

30 Years of Pro Silva

70 Years of Slovenian Forestry Institute

**70 years of Biotechnical faculty, Department of Forestry and
Renewable Forest Resources**

100 Years of University of Ljubljana



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