

# Multifunctional EU forests and their role in supporting EU strategic objectives

26th September 2024

14:00 - 18:00

European Economic and Social Committee

VMA building: Rue Van Maerlant 2, Bruxelles

## EVENT OVERVIEW

Forest owners and managers consider it important at the beginning of this new political cycle to bring to the attention of policy makers and relevant stakeholders some of the key policy files that will need to be discussed in the next years and the impact that this could/should have on the forest sector.

The priorities that will be fixed for this period will need to better reflect the diverse and complex needs of forest management, realities on the ground and what forest owners and managers have achieved to date.

In this context it is key to have an open dialogue on the role of multifunctional forest management in achieving current and future EU objectives from biodiversity, environment and climate change to competitive businesses and viable rural areas. In addition, this event will be an opportunity to continue the discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on a forest monitoring framework.

### AGENDA

Moderator – Jo O'Hara

14:00 – 14:30

REGISTRATION

14:30 – 14:35

Welcome address on behalf of the organisers by **Marko Mäki-Hakola**, Forest Director, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, MTK, Finland

14:35 - 15:00

**Opening speeches - Three key messages on what the main priorities for forests are for the next period**

- **Peter Schmidt**, President of the NAT section of EESC
- **Ferenc Lakatos**, Chair of the Council Working Party on Forestry Hungarian presidency
- **Marina Brakalova**, Member of the Cabinet of Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission
- **Elsi Katainen**, MEP Renew Group

15:00 – 15:15

Setting the scene by **Tudor Stăncioiu** – Professor, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania

**EU forest-related policies – What do we want/need from EU forests?**

15:15 – 16:00

### **Session 1: Opportunities and challenges for EU forests to contribute to climate and biodiversity objectives through developing sustainable bioeconomy?**

- **Gaëlle Marion**, Head of Unit Environmental Sustainability, DG AGRI, European Commission
- **Cristina Santos**, Head of Division, Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests, Forest Management and Competitiveness Division, Portugal
- **Jędrzej Damski**, Senior Expert of the Forest Service, International Affairs, Lasz Państwowe, Poland
- **Jessica Nordin**, Director of Sustainability at Södra and CEPI Forest Committee
- **Claus Clemmensen**, Chief Consultant in Danish Machinery Contractors, CEETTAR

16:00– 16:20

Q&A

16:20– 16:50

Coffee break

16:50– 17:35

### **Session 2: Proposal for a Regulation on forest monitoring framework: already available information, gaps and needs**

- **Ion Codescu**, Head of Unit Land use and Management, DG ENVI, European Commission
- **Meelis Seedre**, Head of the Forest Department, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
- **Anke Schulmeister-Oldenhove**, Senior Forest Policy Officer, WWF
- **Harald Mauser**, EFI Liaison Officer
- **Valerie Findeis**, Policy officer, Austrian Land & Forest Owners Association

17:35– 17:50

Q&A

17:50 – 18:00

Concluding remarks

**18:00-20:00**

**Networking drink**

