



# 'Woodlands for water PES – a policy perspective' Ecosystem services in the EU Forest Strategy and under the Common Agricultural Policy

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PESFOR-W final conference

*Online, 18 March, 2021*

# “Policy framework” for forest ecosystem services in:



- *EU Forest strategy 2013-2020*
- *CAP Rural Development 2014-2020*
  
- *The European Green Deal 2019*
- *EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030*
- *EU Forest Strategy 2030-2050*
- *CAP Strategic Plan for 2021-2027*
- *...EU Bioeconomy strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, as well as SDG and Paris Climate Agreement commitments....*
- *Horizon 2020 research programmes....*

# EU Forest Strategy 2013-2020



- *It acknowledges that while **there is not a common EU forest policy**, the EU has a long history of contributing through its policies to implementing sustainable forest management, and to Members State's decisions on forests.*
- ***The EU Forest Strategy is based on the principles of subsidiarity and shared responsibility.***
- *The strategy provides a **holistic approach to forests** addressing also the value chain.*
- ***Its guiding principles are***
  - (i) **sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests,**
  - (ii) resource efficiency, optimising the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation and
  - (iii) global forest responsibility, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.

# EU FOREST Strategy 2013



## 2020 OBJECTIVE

To ensure and demonstrate that:

- All forests in the EU are managed according to sustainable forest management (SFM) principles
- The EU contribution to promoting SFM and reducing deforestation globally is strengthened .

<b>COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION</b>	Working together
	Forests from a global perspective
<b>CONTRIBUTING TO MAJOR SOCIETAL OBJECTIVES</b>	Supporting our rural and urban communities
	Fostering the competitiveness and sustainability of forest-based industries, bioenergy and the wider green economy
	<b>Forests and climate change</b>
	<b>Protecting forests and enhancing ecosystem services</b>
<b>IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE</b>	Forest information and monitoring
	Research and innovation

# EU FOREST Strategy review

## Some needs



- *Additional experience and exchanges **of good practices in mitigation and adaptation actions** and their synergies.*
- ***Deploy innovation** and scale-up the role of forest-based biomass, whilst protecting the environment and ensuring circularity – role of revised EU Bioeconomy Strategy.*
- ***Enhance the role of FMPs** in achieving biodiversity targets and **support the provision of ecosystem services.***
- *A strengthened framework to **disseminate R&I project results and reinforce capitalisation of innovation** along value chains to support competitiveness.*
- ***Forest harmonized information** (FISE, ENFIN...)*
- *The Council Conclusions also recognized the **need for a new EU forest strategy***



# ***Forestry measures in the CAP Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020***



## Forestry measures Article 21. and 34.

- Article 21 (Measure 8) covers the following sub-measures:
  - Article 22 (M8.1) Afforestation and creation of woodland
  - Article 23 (M8.2) Establishment of agroforestry systems
  - Article 24 (M8.3) Prevention and (M8.4) restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events
  - Article 25 (M8.5) Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems
  - Article 26 (M8.6) Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products
- Article 30 (M12) N2000
- Article 34 (M15) Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation
- Article 35 (M16.8) Cooperation: Forest management plans <sup>7</sup>



*The agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry that 'achieves more and better from less'.*

## ***Focus Groups related to forestry:***

- *Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialised crop and livestock systems*
- *Sustainable mobilisation of forest biomass*
- *New forest practices and tools for adaptation and mitigation of climate change*

*<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups>*





# Financial plan at the beginning of 2021

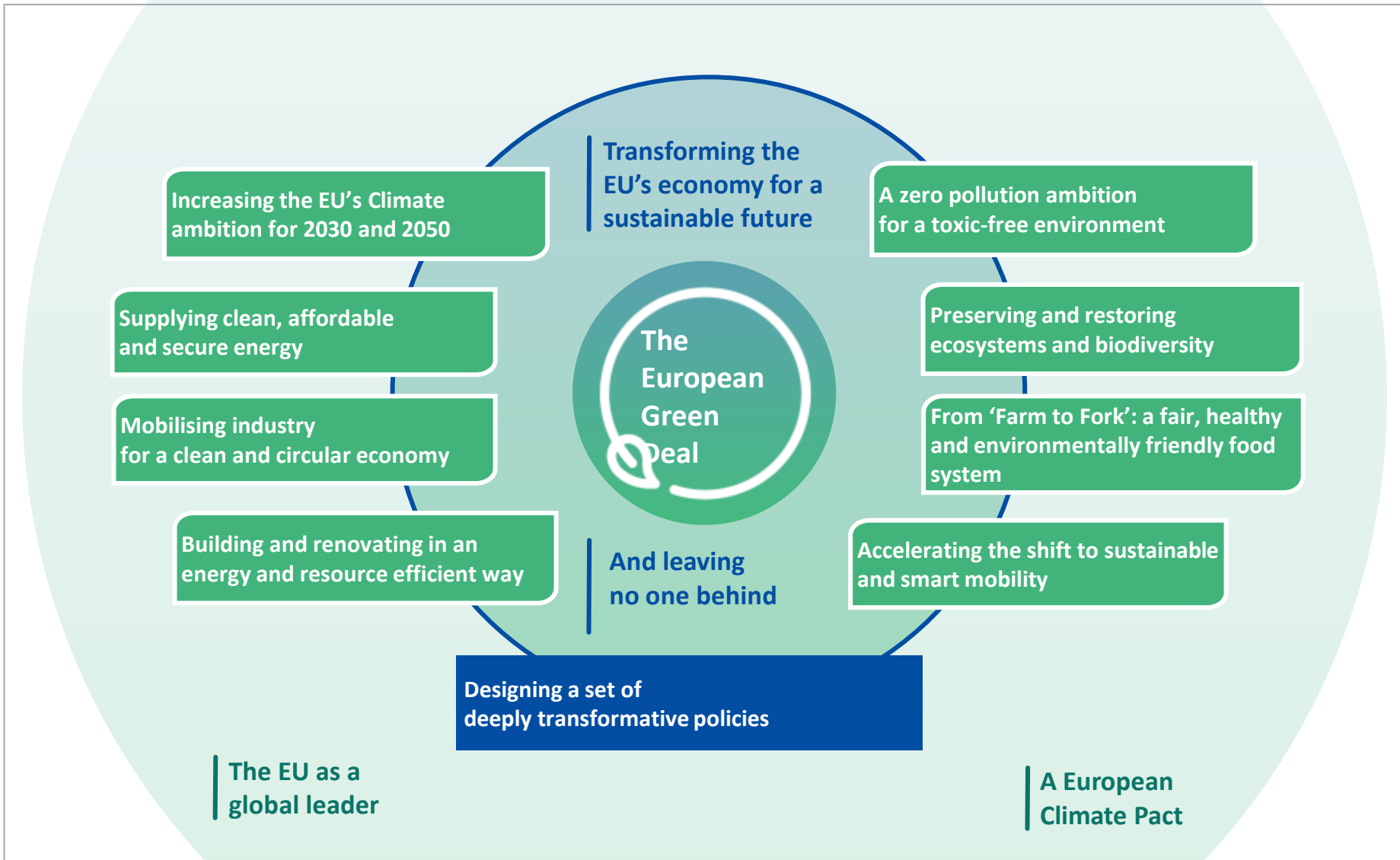
- *In general, there is a slight decrease in the **planned total public expenditure 6.7 € billion**, compare with the amount in 2016. (around 7.6 € billion)*
- *Forest-water specific interventions can be supported up to the level of costs incurred or income lost due to voluntary commitments.*



European  
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# Beyond 2020

# The European Green Deal



# The European Green Deal



- **A new growth strategy** that aims to transform the EU into a fair and **prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy** where there are **no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050** and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.
- It also aims **to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being** of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts.
- This transition must be **just and inclusive**. It must put people first, and **pay attention to the regions, industries and workers** who will face the greatest challenges.
- Active **public participation** and confidence in the transition is paramount if policies are to work and be accepted.



# The European Green Deal

## Forests

- *Forest ecosystems are under increasing pressure, as a result of climate change.*
- *The EU's **forested area needs to improve, both in quality and quantity**, for the EU to reach climate neutrality and a healthy environment.*
- *Sustainable re- and afforestation and the restoration of degraded forests can increase absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> while improving the resilience of forests and promoting the circular bio-economy.*

# The European Green Deal

- **EU Biodiversity Strategy** for 2030 in 2020
- Follow up with concrete measures in 2021 to **address the main drivers of biodiversity loss**
- A new **EU Forest Strategy** in 2021
- Measures to support **deforestation-free value chains** from 2020

Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity

Designing a set of deeply transformative policies

The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

# The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



- *Forests play a hugely important role for biodiversity*
- *Improve the quality and increase the quantity and resilience*
- *Afforestation, reforestation and tree planting,*
- *Increase the role and use of forest management plans*
- *Improved forest information; Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)*
- *Protecting the "old-growth forests"*
- *Introducing environmental friendly practices, e.g. agroforestry, close-to-nature-forestry...*



# The European Green Deal

## EU Forest Strategy

- *Building on the **2030 biodiversity strategy\***, the Commission will prepare **a new EU forest strategy in 2021** covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services that forests provide.*
- *The **new EU forest strategy** will have as its key objectives **effective afforestation, and forest preservation and restoration in Europe**, to help to increase the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub>, reduce the incidence and extent of forest fires, and promote the bio-economy, in full respect for ecological principles favourable to biodiversity.*

*\*COM(2020) 380 final*





## Guiding thoughts

- *The concept of **forest multifunctionality** will be crucial.*
- ***Finding the right balance of carbon storage, raw material supply, biodiversity conservation and provision of other services in a world of changing climate will demand mobilisation of innovation, knowledge, technical capacity and expertise, and demand strong coordination.***



- ***The new forest strategy will set an adequate context to the ambition for expanding and restoring forests.***
- *Investments in afforestation and restoration must be followed by **long-term forest management** of the new forests, to secure their **climate benefits**, together **with other services**.*
- ***The sustainable management of existing forests has to be ensured and enhanced.***



- *The contribution of forests to the bioeconomy and the circular economy are priority in the Green Deal.*
- *The management of EU forests must ensure the sustainable supply of wood and biomaterials as substitute products, for example in construction, as a long term important carbon storage option.*
- ***The new CAP can support a new and more ambitious forest strategy, to increase forest area, secure healthy and sustainably managed forests, and contribute to the Green Deal goals.***



# Open Public Consultation

- *The purpose of this consultation is to gather views from citizens and stakeholders, which the Commission will then feed into the preparation of the future forest strategy.*
- *Feedback period 25 January 2021 - 19 April 2021 (midnight Brussels time)*
- *<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12674-Forests-new-EU-strategy/public-consultation>*



# The European Green Deal

## CAP role

- The **national strategic plans** under the common agricultural policy **should incentivise forest managers to preserve, grow and manage forests sustainably.**
- The Commission will ensure that **these strategic plans are assessed against robust climate and environmental criteria.** These plans should lead to the use of **sustainable practices**, such as precision agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry and stricter animal welfare standards.

# Key elements of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy



- 1. Rebalancing responsibilities between Brussels and the Member States** (*New delivery model, more subsidiarity and more responsibility*)
- 2. More targeted, result and performance based support**
- 3. Simplifying and modernising the policy**
- 4. Enhancing environmental and climate ambition**
  - *At least 30% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan shall be reserved for interventions addressing the specific environmental and climate-related objectives*
  - *Actions under the CAP are expected to contribute 40 % of the overall financial envelope of the CAP to climate objectives. A method for tracking climate expenditure*

# Role for forests in the new CAP 2021-2027



- *The **CAP's forestry measures** are the main source of public funding to the EU forests in line with the principles of the EU Forest Strategy and the objective to promote sustainable forest management.*
- *The CAP **strikes the right balance** across the dimensions of sustainable development. Forests and forestry are expected to play a greater role in achieving these aims.*
- *In the future CAP the role of forests can be further enhanced as the proposed future policy framework provides **the Member States with greater possibility to increase the role of forests in addressing the CAP priorities and objectives, tailoring forestry interventions to the local needs of forests, the forest sector and rural areas where they are located***

# CAP eco-schemes



• ***CAP Strategic Plans will put into practice enhanced conditionality, eco-schemes, farm advisory services as well as agri-environmental and climate measures and investments to address the Green Deal targets, in particular those stemming from the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and to fulfil the climate and environmental specific objectives of the CAP.***

***To be supported by eco-schemes, agricultural practices should:***

- *cover activities related to climate, environment, animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance, (e.g. agroforestry, protecting water resources)*
- *be defined on the basis of the needs and priorities identified at national/regional levels in their CAP strategic plans*
- *their level of ambition has to go beyond the requirements and obligations set by conditionality*
- *[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/factsheet-agri-practices-under-ecoscheme\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/factsheet-agri-practices-under-ecoscheme_en.pdf)*



# FORESTS IN THE NEW CAP

## Rural development



### Types of interventions for rural development

*(The draft Regulation is under finalization by the co-legislators)*

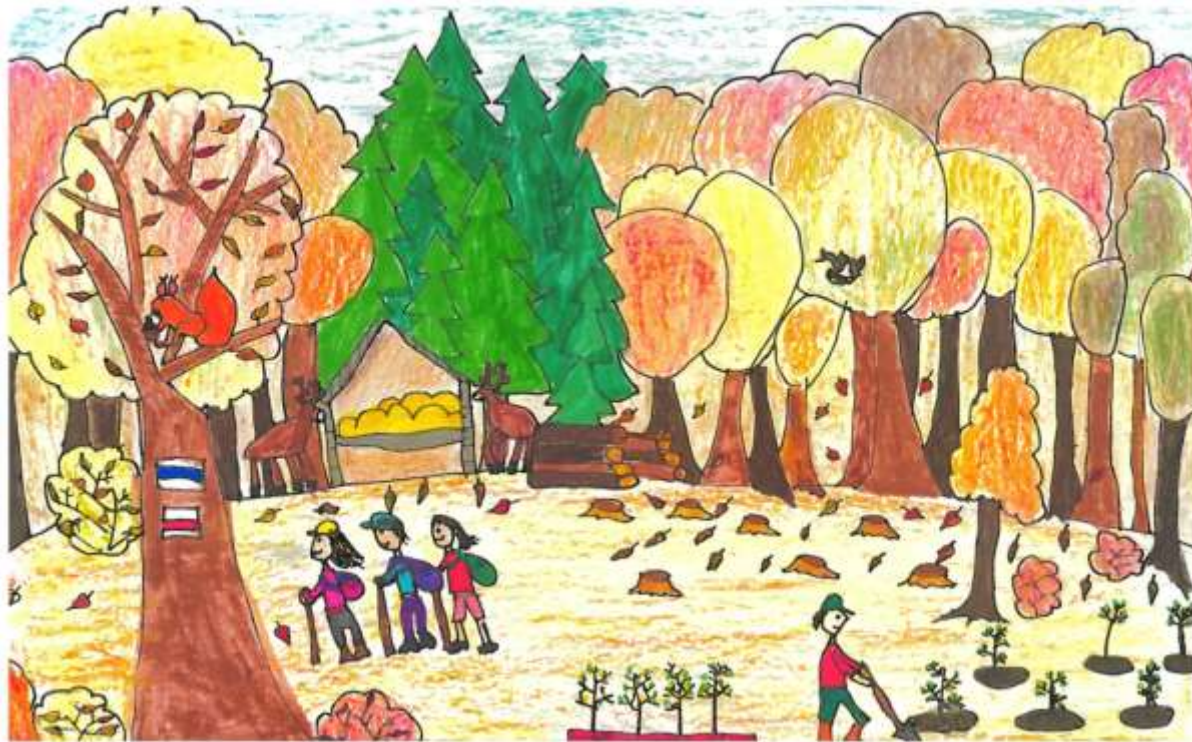
- **Environmental, climate and other management commitments**
  - support is granted to **forest environmental and climate services**, in form of payment per hectare.
- **Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements;**
  - MS may grant payments for area-specific disadvantages imposed by requirements resulting from the implementation of Habitats and Birds Directives, and the Water Framework Directive (for agriculture)
- **Investments**
  - MS may grant support under this type of interventions for tangible and/or intangible investments, which contribute to the CAP specific objectives. **Support to the forestry sector shall be based on a forest management plan or equivalent instrument.**



## Opportunities for supporting R&I in the Bioeconomy in the CAP post-2020 context

*The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 the budgetary amounts foreseen for research and innovation in food, agriculture, rural development and bioeconomy within the **new R&I Framework Programme "Horizon Europe"** - roughly doubles ( about EUR 9 billion).*

# Thank you for your attention!



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/forestry/>