Basic information

2022/2016(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
A New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe **Subject** 3.10.11 Forestry policy 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	MÜLLER Ulrike (Renew)	10/01/2022
	Shadow rapporteur SARVAMAA Petri (EPP) AVRAM Carmen (S&D) WAITZ Thomas (Greens/EFA) AGUILAR Mazaly (ECR) BIZZOTTO Mara (ID) BOMPARD Manuel (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development	RIVASI Michèle (Greens/EFA)	04/02/2022
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (Associated committee)	REGIMENTI Luisa (EPP)	20/01/2022
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/02/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/02/2022	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
12/07/2022	Vote in committee		
29/07/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0225/2022	Summary
12/09/2022	Debate in Parliament		
13/09/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0310/2022	Summary
13/09/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2016(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/9/08063

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE719.646	01/03/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE719.798	25/03/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE730.080	25/03/2022	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE704.550	03/06/2022	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE729.903	15/06/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0225/2022	29/07/2022	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0310/2022	13/09/2022	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2022)681	16/12/2022	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	22/09/2022	BM Totschnig
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	22/09/2022	BM für Klima und Umwelt Georg Kanz
BOMPARD Manuel	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	09/03/2022	Canopée
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	26/01/2022	Waldverband Österreich
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	12/01/2022	Bioenergy Europe/ Daniel Reinemanns
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	16/10/2021	Matthias Schickhöfer
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	16/10/2021	Marta Jagusztyn Fundacja Lasy i Obywatele
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	06/10/2021	Rudolf Rosenstatter - Waldverband
WAITZ Thomas	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	08/09/2021	Stefan Kreft Conservation Society

A New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

2022/2016(INI) - 29/07/2022 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted the report by Ulrike MÜLLER (Renew Europe, DE) on a new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe.

The EU is home to approximately 5 % of the world's total forest area, with forests accounting for 43 % of the EU's land area. Forest ownership across Europe is diverse in terms of size and ownership structure, leading to a great diversity of management models. About 60 % of the EU's forests are owned by 16 million private forest owners, of whom a significant share are small-holders, while approximately 40 % of the EU's forests are under different forms of public ownership.

Members welcomed the new EU Forest Strategy and its ambition to increase the balanced contribution of multifunctional forests to the targets of the Green Deal and its EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, particularly the goals of creating sustainable green growth and green jobs, and of achieving a carbon-neutral, environmentally sustainable and fully circular economy within planetary boundaries and climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The report stated that, in line with sustainable forest management and to increase the quality and diversity of forest ecosystems, the maintenance, protection, strengthening, restoration and sustainable use of healthy and resilient forests are fundamental goals of the EU Forest Strategy and of all actors in forestry and the forest-based value chain, using timber as a versatile, renewable raw material to maximise self-sufficiency in the EU.

Despite the continuously growing cover and volume of forests in the EU, Members stressed the urgent need to **protect and increase forest and ecosystem resilience**, including through measures to increase the capacity to adapt to climate change, and to reduce pressures where feasible, while taking into consideration the characteristics of the forest.

Varying forest management

The report acknowledged that forest management is site-specific and that varying forest conditions and forest types may require different management approaches based on different ecological needs and forestland characteristics. Rights and interests of forest sector workers, owners and other concerned actors should also be considered. Moreover, Members recognise the complexity of assessing the state of forests, as well as the **uneven availability, diversity and quality of data**, and therefore stressed the need for continuous policy and scientific dialogue and increased financing at all levels, starting from consultations with Member States, and in particular with forest managers and owners, to improve data collection on the state of forests and, where appropriate, data harmonisation.

Fostering a balanced multifunctionality

Members emphasised that wood is the only significant natural renewable resource that has the potential to replace some very energy-intensive materials, such as cement and plastics, and will be in greater demand in the future. They stressed the need **to reduce the EU's consumption** in general and welcomed the establishment of a methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction.

Stressing that the increasing demand for wood as a raw material, especially wood for use as an energy source, poses major challenges in the context of political crises, such as the war in Ukraine, Members called on the Commission and the Members States to **assess dependencies on imports** of timber from Russia in the light of the legitimate sanctions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and to develop sustainable strategies to mitigate disruptions where necessary, while avoiding at EU level the conversion of agricultural land suitable for food production.

Reforestation, afforestation and sustainable management

The report recognised that there are several co-benefits associated with reforestation and afforestation, such as water filtration, increased water availability, drought mitigation, flood control, avoided sedimentation, the creation of wildlife habitats, an increase in soil fauna, enhanced soil fertility and air filtration.

Members welcomed the reforestation and afforestation roadmap for planting at least **3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030**. They called on the Commission and the Member States to pay special attention to planting suitable trees in areas with degraded

land and those affected by desertification and reiterated the importance of protecting primary and old-growth forests. Increasing the area of afforested land can make an effective contribution to combating climate change and to the natural regeneration of degraded forest systems, with the medium- and long-term effect of economic and social development and the creation of new jobs.

Members called on the Member States to continue their efforts to properly implement national strategies and legislation related to sustainable forest management, and to adapt them to their national, regional and local circumstances.

Members noted with great concern that large-scale and more intense wildfires are an increasing challenge across the European Union and, in particular, that the 2021 fire season in the EU was unprecedented, as some 0.5 million ha were destroyed by fire, notably in the regions of Europe facing the highest average temperature rises, such as the Mediterranean. They called for more resources for and the development of science-based fire management and capacity-building support through advisory services to tackle the effects of climate change in forests.

Enabling forests and forest managers to deliver on multiple goals

The CAP and the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) are the main sources of support for forestry measures, accounting for 90 % of EU's total finance for forestry. The report noted that between 2014 and 2020, the Member States only spent 49 % of the available funds, that the Commission has identified administrative burden, insufficient attractiveness of the premiums and a lack of advisory services as reasons for this low usage and that this should be taken into account when adapting the new CAP strategic plans. Member States should eliminate the administrative burden in order to make the use of the EAFRD for forestry measures more efficient.

Members stressed that forest owners and managers need a large amount of **flexibility** in their forest management practices, working from a strong common basis, so that they can provide all the required ecosystem services.

A New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

2022/2016(INI) - 13/09/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 417 votes to 144, with 67 abstentions, a resolution on a new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe.

The EU is home to approximately 5 % of the world's total forest area, with forests accounting for 43 % of the EU's land area. Forest ownership across Europe is diverse in terms of size and ownership structure, leading to a great diversity of management models. About 60 % of the EU's forests are owned by 16 million private forest owners, of whom a significant share are small-holders, while approximately 40 % of the EU's forests are under different forms of public ownership.

Parliament welcomed the new EU Forest Strategy and its ambition to increase the balanced contribution of multifunctional forests to the targets of the Green Deal and its EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, particularly the goals of creating sustainable green growth and green jobs, and of achieving a carbon-neutral, environmentally sustainable and fully circular economy within planetary boundaries and climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The resolution stated that, in line with sustainable forest management and to increase the quality and diversity of forest ecosystems, the maintenance, protection, strengthening, restoration and sustainable use of healthy and resilient forests are fundamental goals of the EU Forest Strategy and of all actors in forestry and the forest-based value chain, using timber as a versatile, renewable raw material to maximise self-sufficiency in the EU.

Despite the continuously growing cover and volume of forests in the EU, Parliament stressed the urgent need to **protect and increase forest and ecosystem resilience**, including through measures to increase the capacity to adapt to climate change, and to reduce pressures where feasible, while taking into consideration the characteristics of the forest.

Fostering a balanced multifunctionality

Members emphasised that wood is the only significant natural renewable resource that has the potential to replace some very energy-intensive materials, such as cement and plastics, and will be in greater demand in the future. They stressed the need **to reduce the EU's consumption** in general and welcomed the establishment of a methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction.

Stressing that the increasing demand for wood as a raw material, especially wood for use as an energy source, poses major challenges in the context of political crises, such as the war in Ukraine, Parliament called on the Commission and the Members States to **assess dependencies on imports** of timber from Russia in the light of the legitimate sanctions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and to develop sustainable strategies to mitigate disruptions where necessary, while avoiding at EU level the conversion of agricultural land suitable for food production.

Reforestation, afforestation and sustainable management

Underlining the multifaceted role of forests and the importance of healthy, ecologically resilient forest ecosystems that provide a multitude of services to society, such as the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of renewable raw materials, helping to create jobs and boost economic growth in rural areas, Parliament welcomed the reforestation and afforestation roadmap for planting at least **3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030**. It called on the Commission and the Member States to pay special attention to planting suitable trees in areas with degraded land and those affected by desertification.

Wildfires

Parliament noted with great concern that large-scale and more intense wildfires are an increasing challenge across the EU. It underlined the need for more resources for and the development of science-based fire management and capacity-building support through advisory services to tackle the effects of climate change in forests. It also highlighted the importance of further developing and making full use of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in relation to forest fires and other natural disasters.

Noting that **multi-age, multi-species forests** with continuous cover are more resilient to climate impacts such as fire, drought and unseasonal weather events, Parliament insisted that **monocultures**, which are less resilient to pests and diseases, **should not be supported by EU funds**.

In addition, Parliament recalled the significant deficit in the **mapping of primary and old-growth forests** and the urgent need to complete the framework to ensure comprehensive and harmonised mapping, based on clear operational criteria and definitions.

Enabling forests and forest managers to deliver on multiple goals

The CAP and the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) are the main sources of support for forestry measures, accounting for 90 % of EU's total finance for forestry. The resolution noted that between 2014 and 2020, the Member States only spent 49 % of the available funds, that the Commission has identified administrative burden, insufficient attractiveness of the premiums and a lack of advisory services as reasons for this low usage and that this should be taken into account when adapting the new CAP strategic plans. Member States should eliminate the administrative burden in order to make the use of the EAFRD for forestry measures more efficient.