



***EU forest-related policies and their impact on
Forest Owners***

Norges Skogeierforbund Seminar

7 September 2023

Who are we
representing?



European forest owners



~16 million forest owners

60% EU forest area



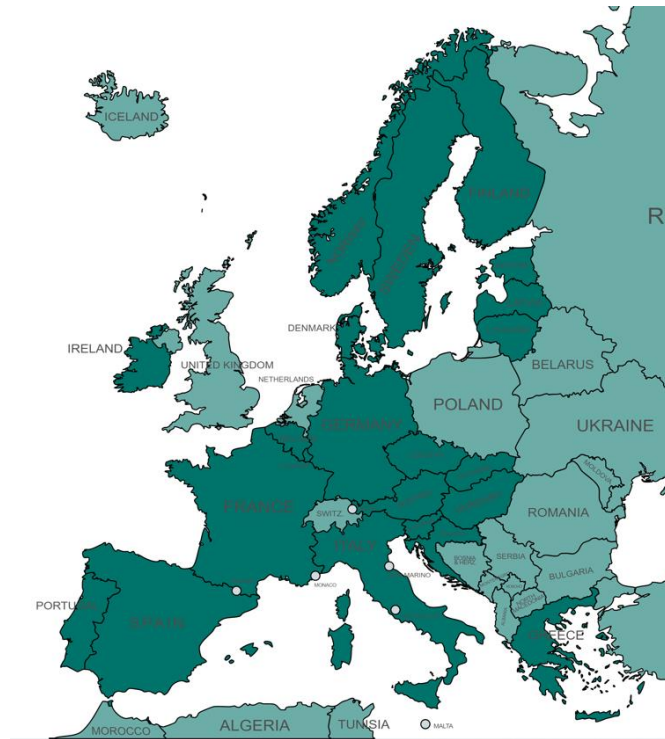
CEPF Members

22 Ordinary members – national associations:



4 Associated members:

CONFI, Waldverband Österreich, UCFF, Familienbetriebe Land und Forst Bayern



EU forest- related policies



The European Green Deal

“Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring:

- *no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050,*
- *economic growth decoupled from resource use,*
- *no person and no place left behind”*



Background: twin crisis and civil society's asks



MONTHLY FOCUS

Climate change and biodiversity loss should be tackled together

Special Eurobarometer 517
Report

Future of Europe

Fieldwork: September-October 2021

The three most mentioned challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36%), unemployment and environmental issues and climate change (32% each). The fourth challenge, migration issues, is mentioned by almost as many respondents (31%).

In order to face major global challenges, respondents think the environment and climate change (39%), social fairness and equality (37%) and health and safety (32%) should be prioritised.

The European Green Deal (2019-2024?)

Non binding		Binding	
			Revised LULUCF Regulation
			Revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	new		EU Regulation on Deforestation (EUDR)
EU Forest Strategy for 2030	new		EU Regulation on Carbon Removals certification
EU Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation	new		EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL)
			Implementation of EU Regulation on sustainable finance
	TBC		EU law on EU forest monitoring and national long-term plans

Green deal and forests: at the heart of the debate

- The state of EU forests: condition / conservation
- The concept of Sustainable Forest Management
- A forestry close to nature Vs an intensive / industrial forestry



Impacts on forest owners



Regulation on Deforestation (EUDR)

- Legality and ‘deforestation-free” (incl. ‘forest degradation-free’) requirements to put wood and wood-products on the EU market
- **forest degradation** means “*structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land and the conversion of primary forests into planted forests*”
- Obligation for the operators to carry out **Due Diligence including geolocation**



Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)

- Sustainability criteria to allow biomass to be considered as renewable
- No go areas including highly biodiverse forests
- Risk based approach
 - Legality
 - maintenance of soil quality and biodiversity. Compliance with maximum threshold for large clear-cuts (as defined under national law)
 - long-term production capacity of the forest;



Nature Restoration Regulation

- Under negotiations (trilogue)
- Restoration measures for Habitats types listed Annex I
 - Non-deterioration of these habitats : possibility to manage ?
- All forest ecosystems to achieve an increasing trend on:
 - Standing and lying deadwood, uneven age structure, forest connectivity, common forest birds index, stock of organic carbon
- Designation process ? Finance?



Consequences

No direct forest management requirements but:

- More protection
- More sustainability requirements
- Political and *legis* uncertainty



- Harvesting level
- Area available for wood supply
- Products available



- Cost of management
- Administrative burden
- Motivation



**Looking
forward**



Change in EU policy context

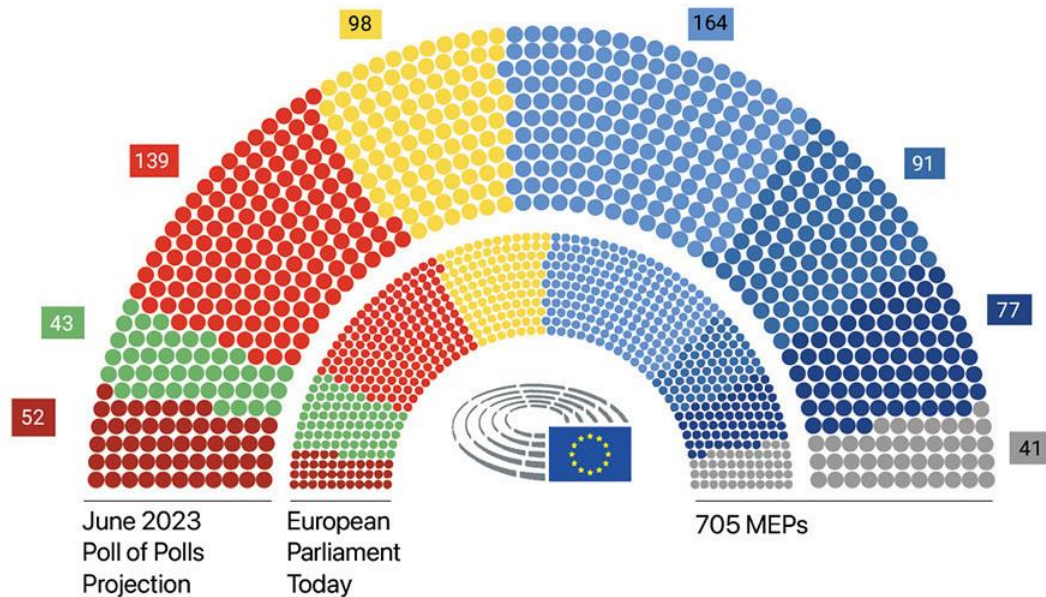
- EVP Timmermans has just left the EU Commission
- EU elections: June 2024



European Parliament election – one year ahead

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SEAT PROJECTION COMPARED

The number of seats each party group would win in a hypothetical European Parliament election compared to today's European Parliament composition, according to POLITICO Poll of Polls' seat projection based on national polls enriched with expert assessments.



	EP Today	2024 Projection	Seat change
EPP	177	164	▼ -13
S&D	143	139	▼ -4
RE	101	98	▼ -3
ID	62	77	▲ 15
The Left	37	52	▲ 15
ECR	66	91	▲ 25
Greens	72	43	▼ -29
NI	47	41	▼ -6

SOURCE: POLITICO analysis based on POLITICO Poll of Polls data

June 2023

European Forest Owners' Manifesto



- About us
- Our achievements
- Our vision
- Our commitments
- Our asks



European Forest Owners' Manifesto



1. Enhance collaboration with Forest Owners
2. Support our work
3. Acknowledge a 'one size fits all' approach cannot work



Thank you for your attention!

