

www.european-foresters.eu

European Forest Managers welcome the strong New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

We offer to professionally support the balanced implementation and needed specifications

Progressive climate change, including the global Covid-19 pandemic, is having the effect of throwing the world out of balance, in a dramatic fashion. The European Professional Forest managers and Forest owners are highly concerned about the future of European Forests and the living conditions of future generations in Europe and worldwide.

Forests are currently dying, forest ecosystems are changing rapidly, invasive species are spreading and the economic base of Sustainable Forest Management and the delivering of Ecosystem Services is changing in a fundamental way.

With the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, which is communicated from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, the very important role of Forests and sustainable, multifunctional Forest management is clearly stressed.

UEF welcomes the holistic, multifunctional and society related view to Forestry.

The European Forest managers share the view that a consistent and future-oriented further development of forest management in the European forests is necessary to meet the immense challenges of climate change and to protect, restore and enlarge EU forests.

From our professional point of view, we do not agree every detailed proposal, but we welcome the big line and the intended close to nature forest management and wood production.

Many details remain still open in the Strategy and have to be specified within the further implementation by finding balanced solutions without too much bureaucracy. From our experience:

- The implementation in detail must be adapted to the different types of forest ecosystems and different conditions in different parts of Europe.
- A comprehensive involvement of the member states should ensure, that working solutions will be found.

In any case the professional forest managers all over Europe feel themselves in the center of the upcoming implementation and are willing to professionally support a balanced implementation and needed specification of details.

UEF especially welcomes that

- Multifunctional and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) will remain, considering in a balanced way all kinds of forest services including the needed wood production as base for a more efficient use of wood in economy.
- Concrete actions to better the coherence of the different forest related policies are planned.
- Ecosystem services and biodiversity are integrated in the model of close to nature forestry. Unbalanced more protected and segregated forests are even in times of climate change not the main tool to optimize and ensure all demands of society in a balanced way.
- Ongoing actions are included in the Strategy to further strengthen the Forest Workforce and Green Jobs
- the need for a new financing system in forestry is recognized, a sufficient financial support for forest owners is foreseen and ecosystem services will be financially rewarded in the future.