

EUSTAFOR feedback to the Roadmap “Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions”

Forests cover more than 40 percent of the EU's land area. They provide the European bioeconomy with renewable materials as well as other ecosystem services. Their role is therefore crucial to fulfil the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, they can contribute to the objectives of the EU related policies especially in relation to climate and energy and to green growth and employment stability, particularly in rural areas.

Forests are essential for reaching the balance between GHG emissions and removals, as they provide for the removals and they also provide for renewable raw materials, which combined with substitution of non-renewable materials and energy as well as with efficient production processes, can strongly contribute to the Paris Agreement ambitions.

Sustainable forest management is already addressed with a long-term perspective manner through forest management plans, and resilience of forest ecosystems is a top concern for state forest managers in Europe.

With surprise we have noticed the exclusion of the forestry sector from the list of interventions at the stakeholders' high level event organized by the European Commission on 10-11 July 2018. Even though one session was dedicated to the role and use of natural resources, there was no room for comments or questions given to forests and forest management, and, therefore, we are deeply disappointed that forest managers could not share their views, especially with reference to the need of climate change adaptation measures in forestry.

In conclusion, we hope that there will be better consideration of the forestry sector in the context of the initiative “Strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reductions” in the future.

The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) represents European State Forest Management Organizations, which often are the single largest forest managers in Member States. The common aim of EUSTAFOR members is to manage forests with a view to meet societal needs in environmentally sound way, while ensuring the economic sustainability.