

Responses to a public consultation on the role of agriculture and forestry in achieving the EU's climate change commitments – Results

28th January 2011

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Aims & Objectives

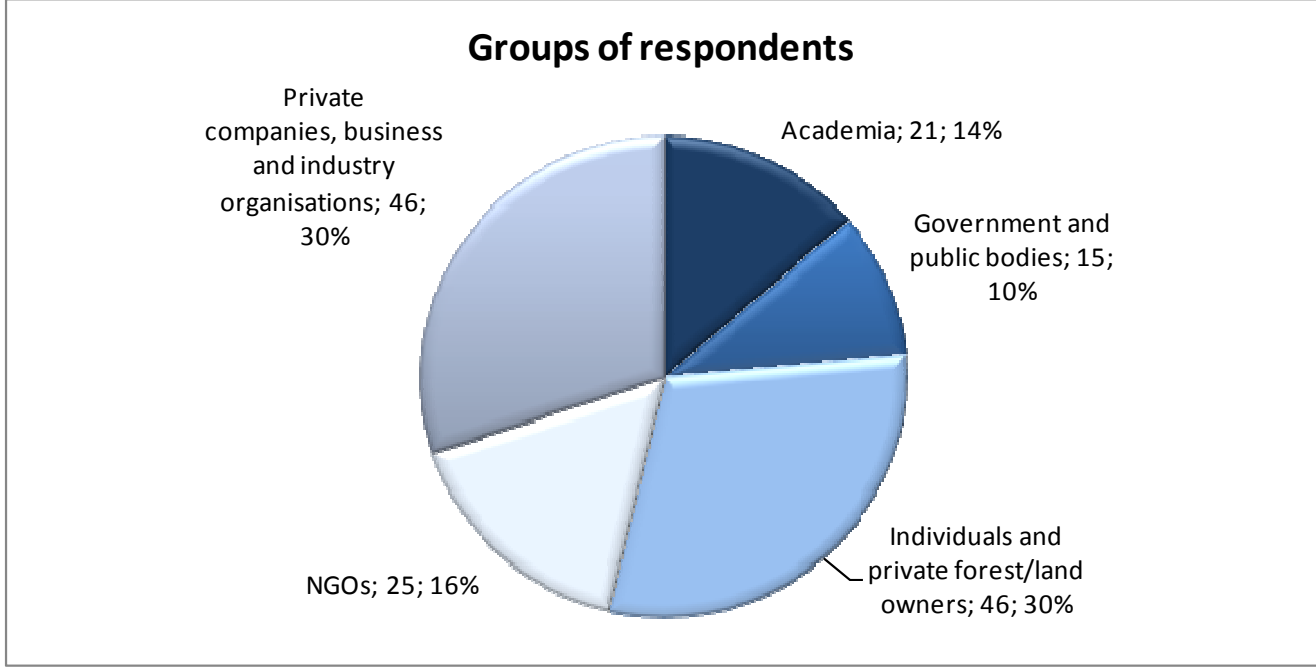
- **Provide a clear and objective analysis of the responses to the public consultation with regards to:**
 - a) the respondents' views
 - b) the underlying factors explaining the respondents' views

Consultation process

- **Section A (Q1 to Q5) described the profile of the respondents**
- **Section B (Q6 to Q7) enquired about opinions on how land use activities contribute to climate change mitigation**
- **Section C (Q8, including all sub-questions Q8-1 to Q-8-7) enquired about the role of LULUCF in the EU's GHG reduction commitment**
- **Section D (Q9 to Q14) enquires about the role of EU policies in addressing land use activities**
- **An additional text box (Q15) allowed respondent to submit further clarifications and comments to the issues raised in the questionnaire.**

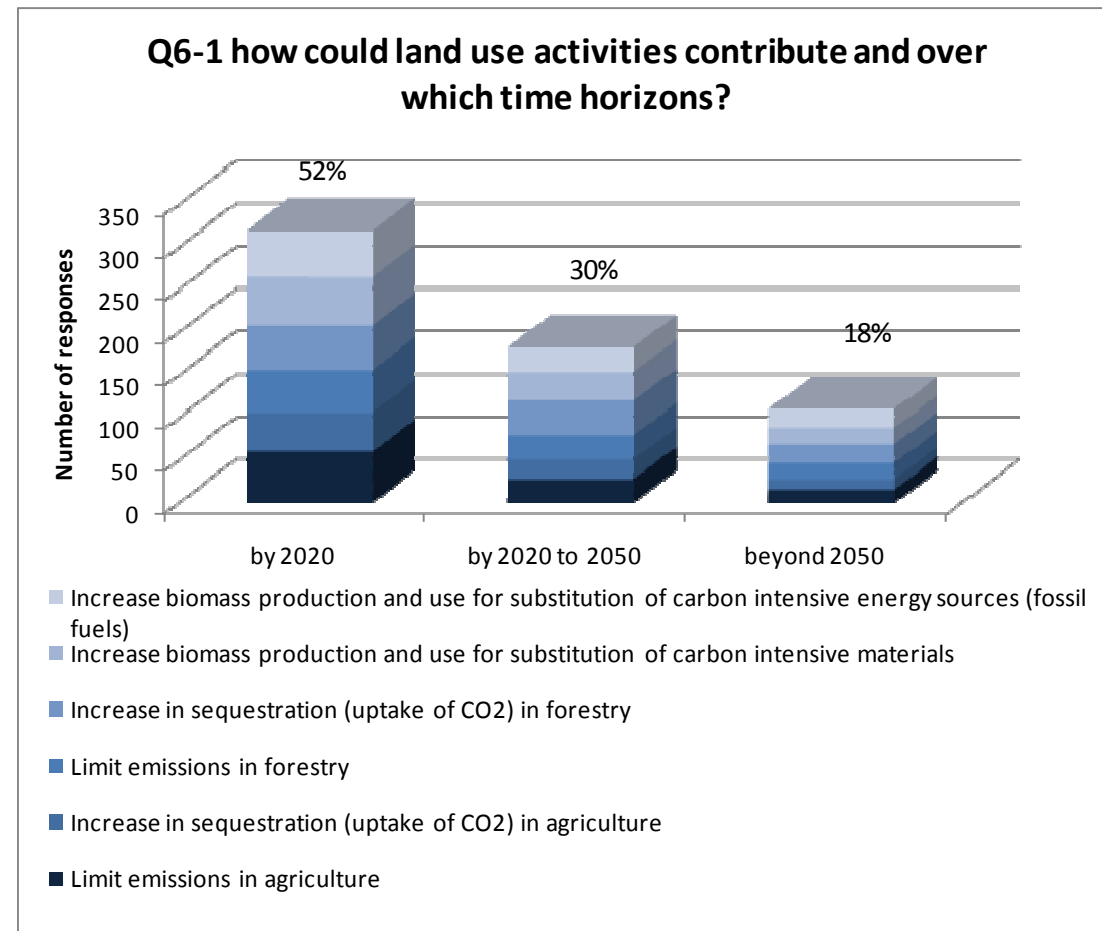
Main findings (1)

- 153 responses in total



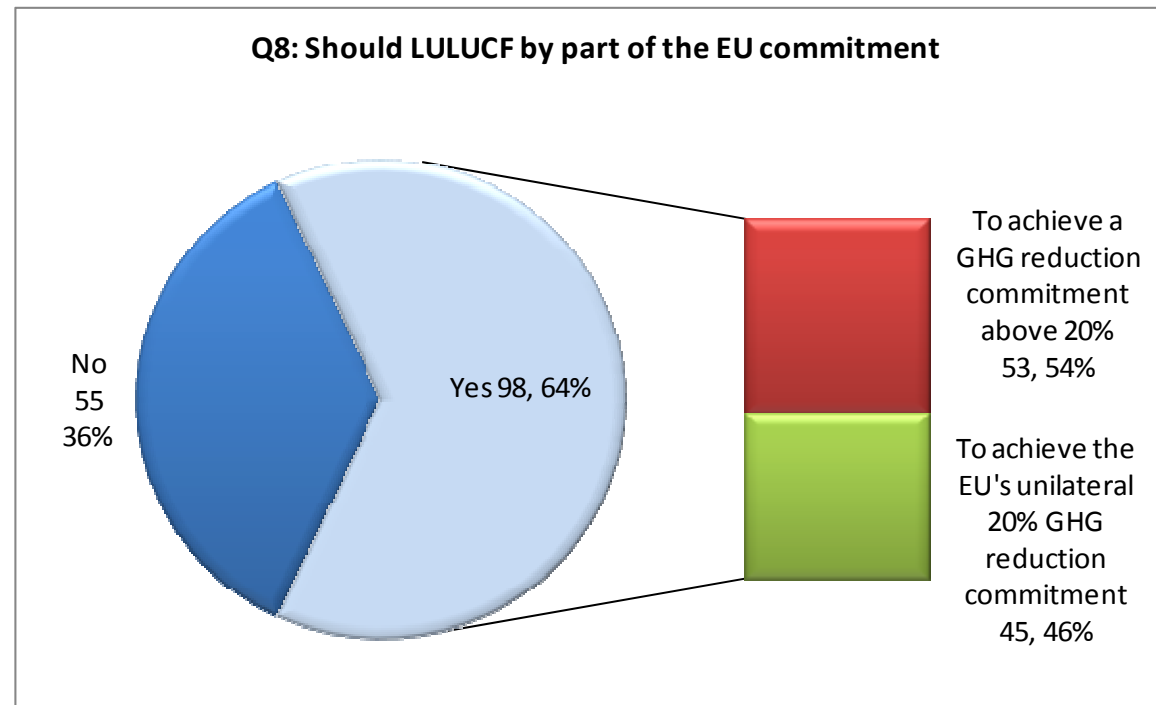
Main findings (2)

- 90% believe that land use activities can contribute to mitigating climate change, 52% by 2020, and 30% between 2020 and 2050
- Increasing CO2 sequestration in forestry and increasing biomass production and use for substitution of carbon intensive materials and energy sources (fossil fuels) were the top 3 favourite activities

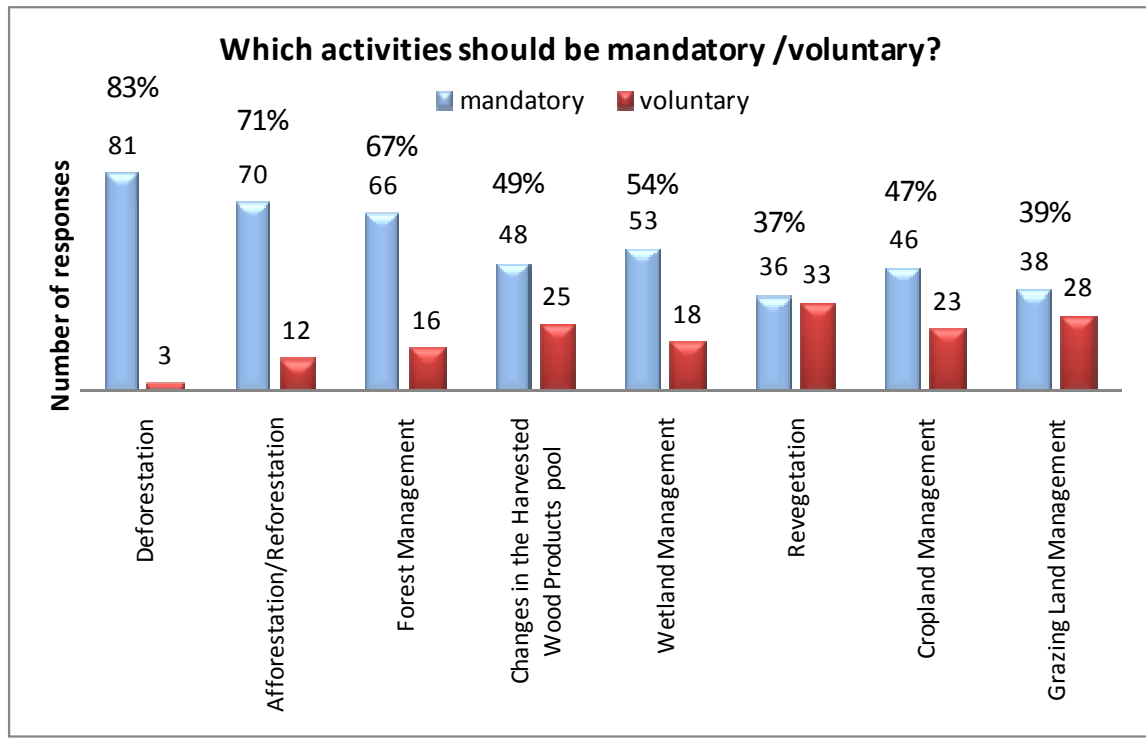


Main findings (3)

- Majority favoured inclusion in EU's GHG emissions reduction target in 2020, with a slight preference to do so only if the EU were to take on a more ambitious commitment than the current one



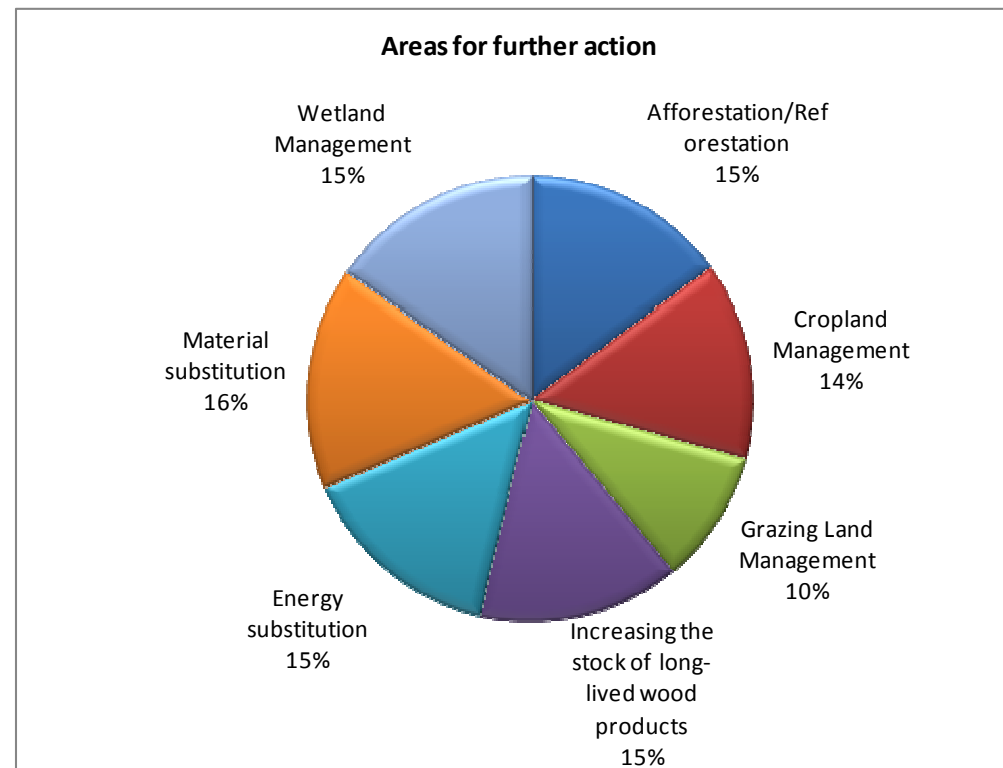
Main findings (4)



- **Forest management accounting: 34% prefer credits/debits for all net removals/emissions (i.e. whether human-induced or not) and 30% relative to a reference year or period**

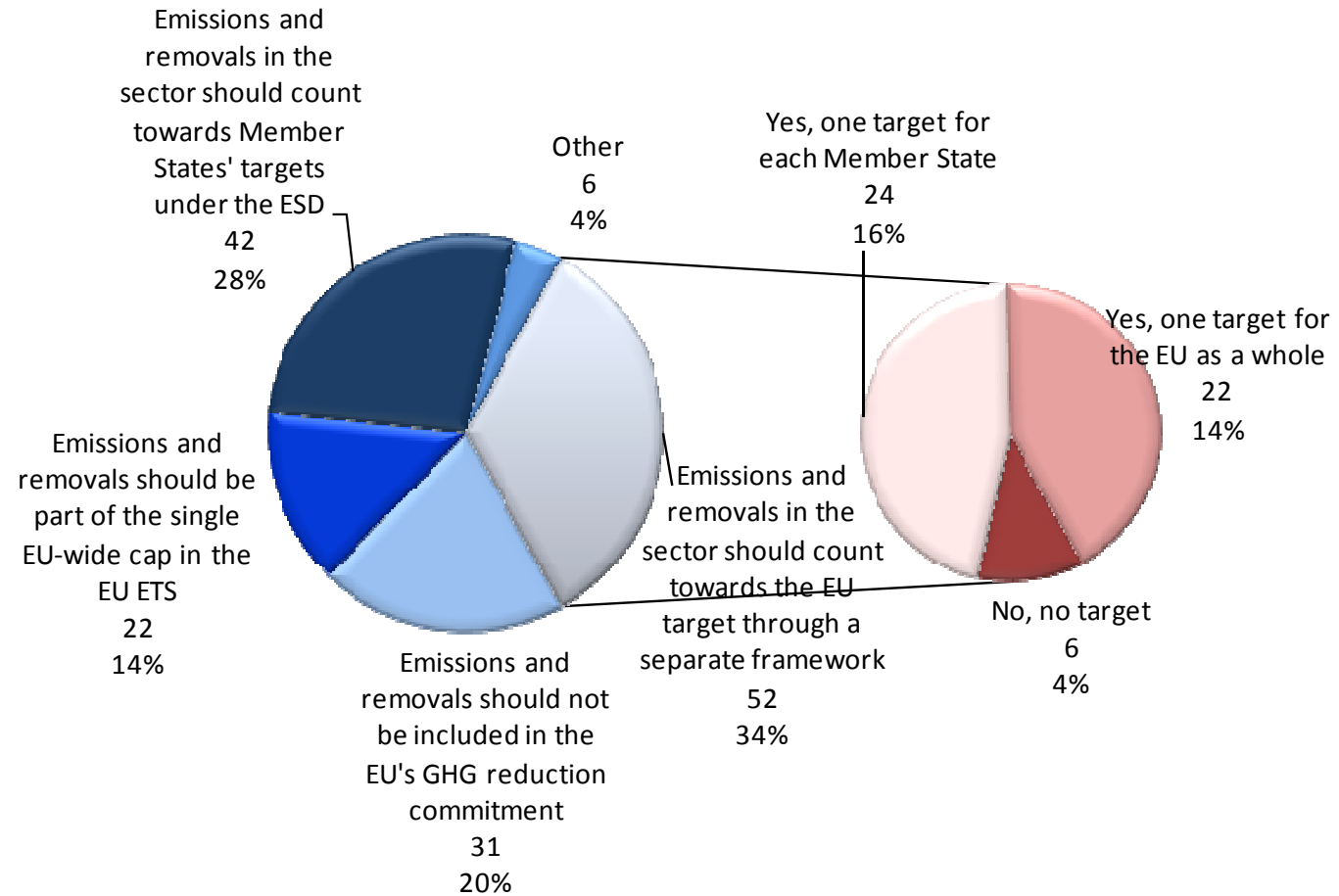
Main findings (5)

- Respondents tended to favour the option in which emissions and removals related to LULUCF would be regulated through a separate framework (34%), preferably with a sector target of some sort, or through the effort sharing decision (28%). Only 14% wanted the sector to be part of the EU ETS
- The majority (82%) considered that existing EU and MS policies are insufficient to ensure that land use activities contribute to climate change mitigation and that all activities need to be addressed via a combination of regional, MS and EU policies (63%).



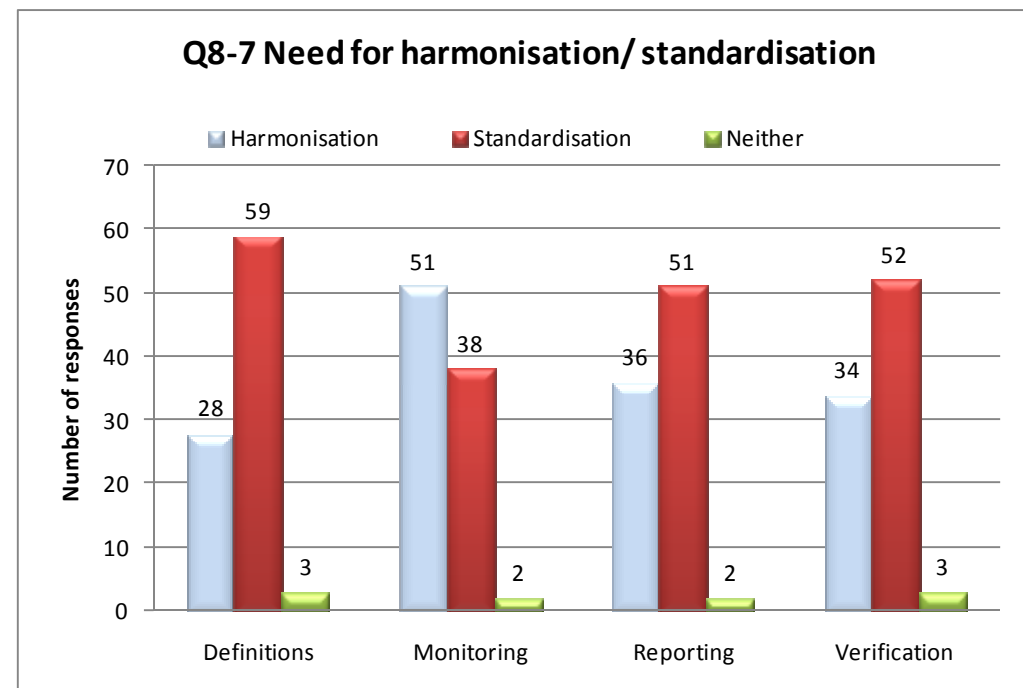
t for business

Q9 : How should emissions and removals related to LULUCF be regulated if included in the commitment?



Main findings (6)

- In terms of rewards: 77% would like to reward net removals, 75% would reward biomass to substitute GHG intensive materials, and 64% would reward biomass to substitute fossil fuels
- Finally, the majority agreed that there is a need for further harmonisation and standardisation between MS in terms of MRV (60%)



Groups of profiles

5 main groups were identified:

- 1. Government and public bodies**
- 2. Individuals (incl. individual forest/land owners)**
- 3. Academia and research**
- 4. Private companies and industry organisations**
- 5. NGOs**

Government and public bodies

- 15 respondents
- LULUCF emissions should be included in the EU's GHG reduction commitment, if target is higher than 20%. Only 2 did not want the sector to be part of the commitment at all
- The majority agreed that accounting for deforestation, afforestation / reforestation and forest management should be mandatory for all MS, whereas for other activities it may be voluntary including changes to HWP pool. Only for wetland management was the group's opinion equally split between mandatory and voluntary
- Credits/debits to be given for the difference in net emissions/removals between the commitment period and a reference period (Reference level) is the preferred choice of accounting for forest management emissions

Individuals

- 46 respondents
- Preferred rewarding landowners for emissions reductions, if resulting from their actions, and similarly be held responsible for decreases in emissions
- Final consumer to be rewarded for the use of biomass as substitute for GHG intensive materials and energy
- Some emissions are not currently properly accounted in the calculation of carbon in harvested wood products and carbon in soils, indirect impacts of EU agriculture and food consumption (e.g. feed and fertilisers imports) to be included
- Priority is to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels

Academia and research

- 21 respondents
- Stronger preference for LULUCF emissions and removals to be included already in the EU's unilateral 20% target but via a separate framework to the ETS and ESD (9), although the ESD (7) was also popular.
- Debits/credits should be given for all net emissions/removals in forest management (Gross-Net)
- All emissions should be accounted for in a clear and transparent manner, LU globally should be accounted for, need to account for emissions and removals on specific land categories (e.g. peatland and sequestration from soils)

Private companies and industry organisations

- 46 respondents
- LU activities could contribute to mitigation, and 66% would like to include the sector in the commitment, except farmers and private forest/ land owners
- Harmonised and/or standardised MRV system between MS would help minimise distortions
- Make the system simple, no bureaucracy
- Would like integration between policies, CAP, renewables and climate change policies
- Financial solutions should be based on making carbon intensive materials and fuels unfavourable (via a CO2 tax for example)
- Biomass energy is beneficial for mitigation

NGOs

- 25 respondents
- Most opposed to the inclusion of LULUCF for fear of diluting the effort
- Bioenergy could potentially increase GHG emissions
- Critical to account for emissions from all phases of the life cycle, including carbon debts, in the development of international accounting rules and in how rewards are given

...However

NGOs (2)

IF land use activities were to be included in the EU reduction commitments:

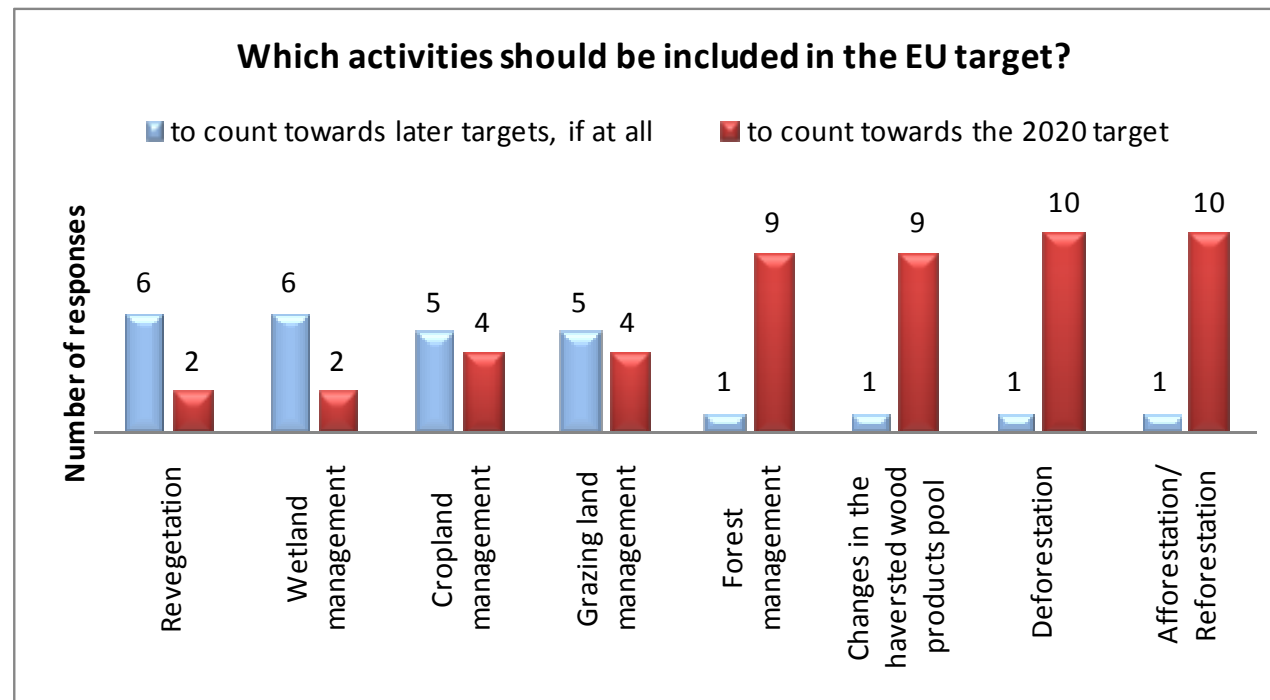
- Separate target from the current and stepped up target
- Full accounting, including from bioenergy.
- Rewards to additional mitigation but accounting rules should be clear, strict and transparent, avoiding leakage or “hidden emissions”
- Forest management accounting to be based on historical base period of 1990-2012
- All activities to be mandatory, full land-based carbon accounting should occur as soon as possible
- Revegetation to be complemented by devegetation,
- Data uncertainties (especially for cropland management and harvested wood products) to be addressed.

Member State analysis (1)

- A total of 14 MS responses were received
- All, except one, considered that LU activities could make a significant and cost-effective contribution to climate change mitigation
- LU activities could help contribute already in 2020 (53%) and between 2020 and 2050 (28%)
- Increasing biomass production and use for substitution of fossil fuels and materials, limiting emissions in forestry and in agriculture are preferred mitigation options

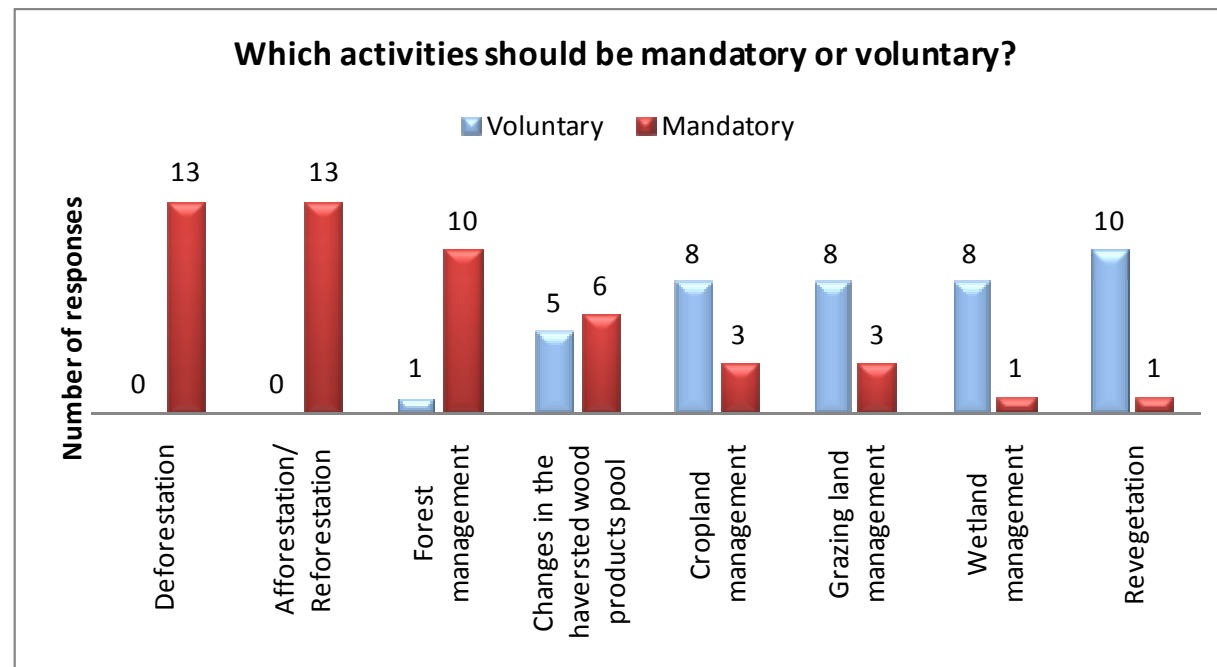
Member State analysis (2)

- LULUCF should be considered in the EU's GHG commitment (except 1 MS)
- 6 MS would only consider an inclusion of the sector to achieve a greenhouse gas reduction commitment above 20%, 4 MS would like to include it already as part of the current target



MS analysis (3)

- If included, emissions and removals from deforestation, afforestation, forest management should be accounted for on a mandatory basis, whereas those from revegetation, wetland management, cropland management, and grazing land management should be accounted for on a voluntary basis
- About half of the MS believed that changes in the harvested wood products pool should be accounted for on a mandatory basis



MS analysis (4)

- 5 MS preferred accounting against a reference level (RL), 6 MS preferred Gross-Net with a discount factor, (although 3 of them noted that they would accept RL) 1 MS were open to both methods, and 1 MS preferred Gross/Net accounting with a cap.
- Harmonisation and standardisation of MRV between MS was recommended
- 5 MS would prefer emissions and removals in the sector to count towards MS' targets under the ESD, 3 MS prefer a separate framework not linked to the targets under the ESD or the EU ETS, 1 MS was open to both, 5 MS indicated no preference.

Thanks!

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