



EU FOREST POLICY

MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, S&D

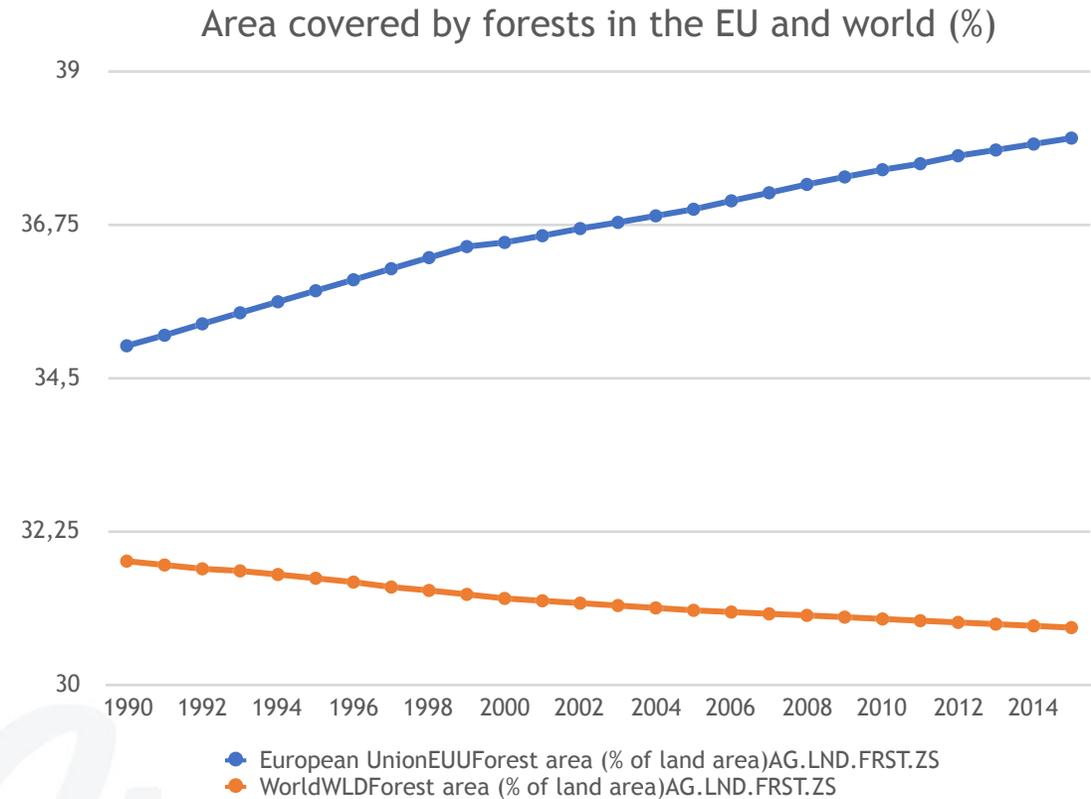
@miapetrakumpula



FORESTS IN EUROPE



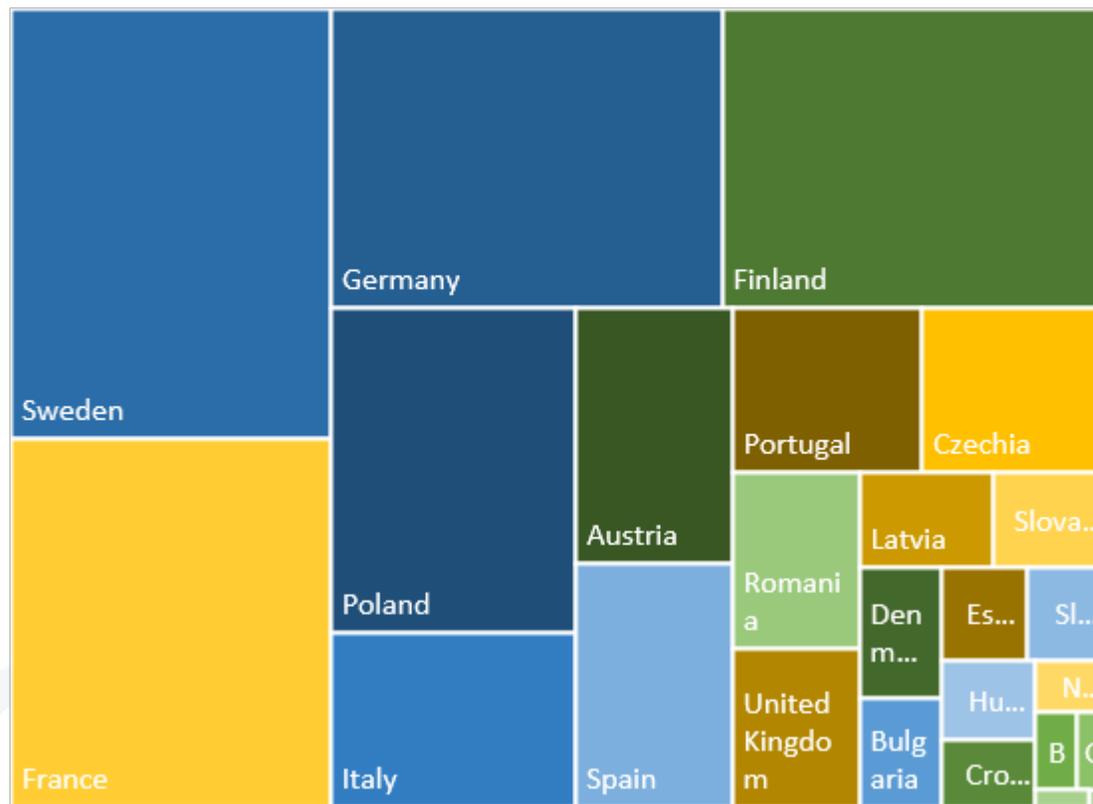
- 161 million hectares of forest (4% of the world's total) in the EU.
- In total, forests cover 38% of the EU's land area and the six Member States with the largest forest areas (Sweden, Finland, Spain, France, Germany and Poland) account for two thirds of the EU's forested areas.
- The area of land covered by forests is growing, unlike in the rest of the world.



ROLE OF FORESTS FOR THE ECONOMY

- The forestry sector (forestry, wood and paper industry) accounts for approximately 1% of EU GDP, and provides jobs for some 2.6 million people.
- The most value added from forests is created in Sweden, France, Germany and Finland.
- Forests should be seen in a larger bioeconomy context, which accounts for 4,2% of EU GDP.

Forest sector value add per country in 2015



ONE STRATEGY TO RULE THEM ALL?

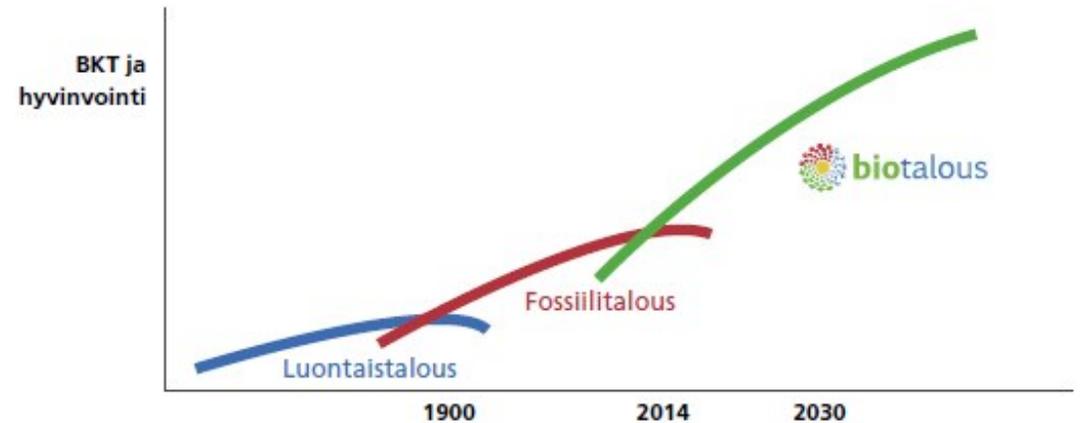


- One of the big challenges for EU policy is policy coherence. There are multiple strategies dealing with circular and bioeconomy, including forests. Here are some of them:
 - [Bioeconomy Strategy](#)
 - [Forest Strategy](#)
 - [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#)
 - [EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy](#)
- If you add to this all the climate legislation (e.g. REDII, LULUCF) - the policy framework is complex and risks to be inconsistent!
- EU policymakers and national policymakers should have a common understanding of the question - solutions will be of course be debated. None of the current EU strategies fully achieves this.

REVIEW OF THE BIOECONOMY STRATEGY



- The bioeconomy strategy (2012) aims at supporting the development of a sustainable, circular bioeconomy in the EU and contributing to the international sustainability agendas and their respective policy objectives and priorities.
- Now a recent review by the Commission seeks to make the actions more concrete and get more out of the bioeconomy. This is coupled with a strong increase to bioeconomy related funding in the next MFF (EP position now 10,8 bn EUR in Horizon Europe).
- But still there is a lack of common vision and policy coherence? Will the actions bring concrete results?



What is bioeconomy? The next level (after natural economy and fossil economy), sustainably making use of natural and circular resources to take welfare to the next level.

FOREST STRATEGY



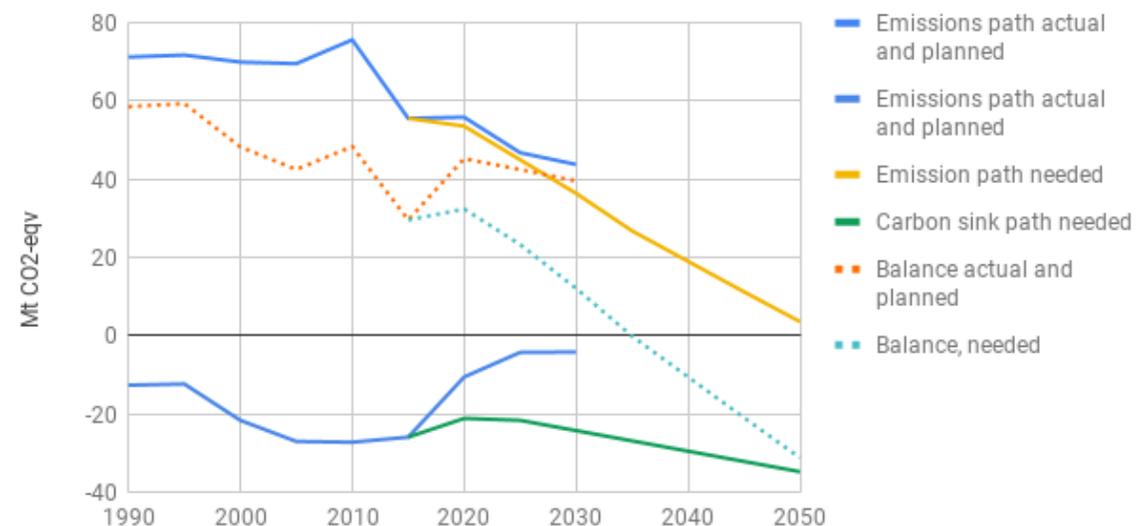
- The European Union (EU) does not have a mandate for a common forestry policy. A large number of the EU's policies and initiatives affect forests, however, both in the EU itself and in non-EU countries.
- In September 2013, the Commission adopted a new EU Forest Strategy (COM(2013) 0659), proposing an EU reference framework to be used when drawing up sectoral policies that will have an impact on forests.
- The strategy's guiding principles are sustainable forest management and promotion of their multifunctional role, resource efficiency and the EU's global forest responsibility.
- The Forest Strategy's principles allow for alignment with the sustainability agenda, by supporting rural areas; by supporting a competitive forestry sector; and by supporting the development of a circular low carbon bioeconomy, all while addressing our headline policy objectives on climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **The mid term review of the Forest Strategy should be published late November 2018.** The review is expected to evaluate the progress of the implementation of the strategy. Based on the review, a possible revision of the strategy should be considered.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



- Forests have a double role when it comes to combating climate change. They are important carbon sinks, but they also play an important role in replacing fossil materials and energy.
- But there needs to be a balance - too much bioenergy and the sinks will go down. Too little forestry and the forests don't grow as fast as they could.
- If Finland wants to be carbon neutral by 2035, we need to take care of our carbon sinks AND we need to cut emissions at the same time. This requires careful balancing of the use of forests. Recent information seems to show that Finnish forests are growing more than ever, even with greater fellings in recent years.

The role of carbon sinks in getting to carbon neutral Finland by 2035



Thank you!

THANK YOU!

MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, S&D

@miapetrakumpula

miapetra.kumpula-natri@ep.europa.eu

www.miapetra.fi


MIAPETRA

