EU Forest-related policies

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EU Forest Policy Environment 2023

a complex puzzle of sectoral policies

in preparation

CAP Horizontal Regulation

State Aid Rules

European CAP Network

CAP Strategic Plan Regulation

Agricultural Research and Innovation

Long-term Vision for Rural Areas

Farm to Fork Strategy

Public Procurement Directive

Updated Industrial Strategy

CEN sustainability criteria bio-based products

Masterplan Energy-intensive Industries

Guidance Cascading Use of Biomass

Civil Protection Mechanism

New Forest Strategy

3 Billion Tree Planting Roadmap

Forest Observation, Reporting/Data Collection

2030 Climate and Energy Framework

Renewable Energy Directive II
(sustainability criteria for biomass)

RED II review/REPowerEU

ILUC Regulation

Energy Union Governance Regulation

Renovation Wave Strategy

2050-Vision

Revised Effort Sharing Regulation

Revised LULUCF Regulation

New Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change

Sustainable Carbon Cycles

Carbon Farming Initiative

2030 Climate Target Plan

Climate Pact

Climate Law

Energy Performance of Buildings

Carbon Removals Certification

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

European Green Deal – Other Actions

New European Bauhaus
Built Environment Strategy
Circular Economy Action Plan
Construction Products Regulation
Packaging and Packaging Waste
Biobased Plastics
Corporate Sustainability Reporting
Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence
Improving Environmental Protection through Criminal Law

Climate Change Framework Convention
(incl. Protocols)

Paris Agreement

Biodiversity Convention
(incl. Protocols)

Bonn Challenge

Combat Desertification Convention

Aarhus Convention
(access to information and justice on environment matters)

UN Agenda 2030/SDGs

UN Forum on Forests

WTO Agreements

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution/ICP Forest

Birds Directive

Habitat Directive

Biodiversity Strategy to 2030

Nature Restoration Law

Mapping of Ecosystem Services (MAES)

Guidelines on Primary and Old-growth Forests

Close-to-nature Forestry
Biodiversity friendly Afforestation

FLEGT Action Plan

Timber Regulation

Invasive Alien Species Regulation

Territorial Cooperation Interreg

European Urban Initiative

Protect and Restore the World's Forests

Regulation on Deforestation

Update Guidance Natura 2000 and forests

8th Environment Action Programme

LIFE+ Programme

Revision Eco-Design

Sustainable Products Directive

Strategy for Sustainable Textiles

Biodiversity Law

Circular Economy Action Plan II

Packaging Directive II

Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe

Plastics Strategy

Single Use Plastic Directive

Soil Strategy for 2030

Soil Health Law

Water Framework Directive

Plant Health Regulation

Plant Protection Products Regulation

Forest Reproductive Material Directive

Forest Reproductive Material Regulations

Horizon Europe

Bioeconomy Strategy

Bioeconomy Strategy Progress Report

Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy

Sustainable Finance Regulations (Taxonomy)

Taxonomy Delegated Acts

FOREST EUROPE
(incl. Resolutions)

Alpine Convention

Carpathian Convention

Bern Convention
(wildlife and natural habitats)

Ramsar Convention
(wetlands)

Harald Mauser European Forest Institute
Liaison Office Brussels

AGRI CLIMA ECHO ENER ENV FISMA GROW REGIO RTD SANTE International

What is forest?

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What is forest?

- forest' means land spanning more than 0,5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 %, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (EU deforestration regulation)

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Context

- 420 million hectares of forest worldwide – an area larger than the EU – have been lost between 1990 and 2020 (FAO).

- A significant share of that forest loss is legal (Forest Trends.)

- Deforestation and forest degradation are important drivers of climate change (IPCC: 11% of GHG emissions) and biodiversity loss

- 90% of deforestation is provoked by the expansion of agricultural land (FAO), which is linked in particular to a series of commodities.

- The EU is a major consumer of commodities associated with deforestation and forest degradation.

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Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market Text with EEA relevance

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32010R0995

EU Timber regulation - Objectives

- prohibit the placement of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the EU market

- require EU operators who place timber products on the EU market to exercise due diligence to minimise the risk of placing illegally harvested timber, or timber products containing illegally harvested timber

- require EU traders to keep records of their suppliers and customers

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EU Timber regulation

- Entered into application on 3 March 2013

- Will be repealed by the Regulation on deforestation-free products

- Every year Member States were required to submit a report to the Commission on the application of the EU Timber Regulation for the previous two years.

- Commission draws up a report to be submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council every two years.

- From 2020, the reporting period was shortened to one year

Online due diligence statement Information System

- Strengthen compliance by Economic Operators and traders

- Support Competent Authorities' risk-based analysis

- Tailor Competent Authorities checks and controls

- Facilitate cooperation between Competent Authorities

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Milestones until the entry into application

Dates	Milestones	Notes
Q3 2023 - Q4 2023	Finalisation of the development of the DDS Information System	• Preliminary analysis and prototyping • Iterative development and testing
29 June 2023	Regulation Enters into force	• Publication on the OJEU on 9 June 2023 • Entry into force 20 days after the publication
Starting November 2023	Pilot Testing	• Realistic data testing, monitoring progress, collecting feedback, and bug fixing
Q2 2024 – Q3 2024	User Training	• Train-the-trainers training sessions • Dedicated training system environment access
Q4 2024	Entry into application of the Regulation (Entry into force + 18 months)	• Preparation for GO Live • System GO Live

Information System after the entry into application

Phase 1 – Central system

- From entry into application and until 5 years after entry into force

- The Information System is used by all parties (Economic Operators, Competent Authorities, Customs Authorities)

- The DDS reference numbers are generated by the Information System

- DDS types supported: Import, Export and Domestic Production

Phase 2 – Central System and CERTEX

- After 5 years after entry into force

- Electronic Interface with the EU Customs Single Window system (CERTEX)

- The Information System continues to be used by Economic Operators and Competent Authorities

- Customs Authorities connect via CERTEX to verify DDS reference numbers and retrieve DDS contents

- The DDS reference numbers are generated by the Information System

- DDS types supported: Import, Export and Domestic Production

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EUROPOL - AP EnviCrime

- AP EnviCrime supports EU law enforcement agencies in their criminal investigations regarding all environmental crime phenomena.

- Its particular focus is on waste trafficking including the improper collection, transport, recovery or disposal of waste and on wildlife crime including the killing, destruction, possession or trade of specimens of protected wild fauna or flora species, and the production, importation, exportation and placing on the market.

- https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/illegal-timber-trade-targeted-in-eu-and-brazil

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Forestry crimes – EUROPOL

- Forestry crimes refer to the illegal logging of timber from forests and woods, as well as illegal land clearing through the intentional destruction of vegetation.

- Forestry crimes are among the most lucrative sectors for environmental crime and are perpetrated extensively in all continents.

- These offences provoke severe effects for the environment, leading to deforestation, droughts and inundations, the increase of emissions of greenhouse gases and overal climate degradation.

- In addition, illegal logging weakens the legitimate forestry sector and hampers the efforts of governments to implement sustainable measures.

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Forestry crimes – EUROPOL

- Europe is both an origin and a destination for trafficked timber.

- Tropical timber is smuggled into Europe from Africa, Asia, and Central and South America

- Illegal timber logging is also carried out in Europe and certain criminal networks have been involved in heavy logging activities in Eastern Europe for decades.

- Illegal land clearing is another crime from which organised crime groups are generating profits.

- One of the most common modi operandi consists of criminals deliberately starting forest fire.

- Suspects are increasingly targeting southern Europe.

- Connected to forestry crimes, criminals working in companies based in the EU have been linked to the falsification of phytosanitary treatments and fraudulent certification of wooden products (in this case pallets), which were distributed to EU enterprises to be used for packing purposes.

- This poses health risks due to the potential spread of parasites and associated pests to the transported goods.

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Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests

- ENV – DG Enviroment

- To provide advice and assistance to the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives, the preparation of delegated acts and the implementation of Union legislation, programmes and policies in relation to the protection and the restoration of World's forests, including illegal logging, as well as coordination and cooperation with Member States and stakeholders in that regard.

- To ensure cooperation between Member States Competent Authorities and stakeholders and with the Commission in order to ensure compliance with the EU Timber Regulation and to assist the Commission in ensuring a uniform implementation of the EUTR and the FLEGT Regulation across the EU.

- https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3282

- 47 Member organisations + 27 MS + 3rd countries invited

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Further information

- https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/illegal-logging/timber-regulation_en

Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 (Text with EEA relevance)

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115&qid=1687867231461

Regulation on deforestation- and forest degradation free supply chains

- Objectives
    - Minimise the EU's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide (thus reducing global deforestation and forest degradation as well as greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss)
    - Minimise risk that products from supply chains associated with deforestation / forest degradation are placed on the EU market or exported from it
    - Increase EU demand for and trade in legal and 'deforestation free' commodities and products

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Timeline

- November 2021: Commission proposal

- June 2022: Council general approach

- September 2022: European Parliament's resolution

- December 2022: Preliminary political agreement between EP and Council

- June 2023: Entry into force (31 May 2023 publication day)

- December 2024: Entry into application of obligations for operators (June 2025 for small enterprises)

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Main elements

- Mandatory due diligence rules for all operators that place the relevant products on the EU market or export them from the EU
  - Only products that are both deforestation-free and legal would be allowed on or exported from the EU market – need to be covered by a due diligence statement
  - Based on internationally-backed definitions (FAO)
  - Main obligations applicable to operators and non-SME traders
  - Strict traceability linking the commodity to the plot of land where it was produced
  - Legality: Products will need to be legal according to the laws of country of production, including applicable human and labour rights and free, prior and informed consent

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Main elements

- Commodities selected: Palm oil, soy, wood, cattle, cocoa, coffee, rubber and some derived products (e.g. chocolate, furniture, tyres, printed products)

- Non-discrimination: The Regulation applies both to domestically produced and imported commodities and derived products

- Progressive scope - Initially covering selected commodities and derived products; to be updated regularly

- 'Cut-off date' of 31 December 2020: Aligned with UNSDG 15.2, aims to minimise disruption for smallholders and facilitate satellite monitoring

- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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Main elements

- Benchmarking system that will assign risk to countries or regions according to risk of deforestation – standard (by default), low and high

- Specific obligations for operators – simplified due diligence for low-risk (still required to collect information, but not assess and mitigate risks)

- Minimum level of inspections for Member States authorities to perform (9%, 3% and 1%, depending on the level of risk)

- Review: Other wooded land (one year); other ecosystems, commodities, products and financial institutions (two years); others (five years)

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Main elements

- Cooperation with partner countries:

- The Regulation is part of a broader set of policies laid out in the 2019 Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

- Imports of the commodities and products covered - EUR 85 billion / year

- No ban against any country or commodity

- The Commission will step up cooperation to ensure that EU partners are able to reap the benefits of new EU rules on deforestation
    - E.g. Cocoa Dialogue, Al-Invest Verde, KAMI Project, Forest Partnerships, etc.

- The Commission will also intensify engagement with consumer countries such as China and USA as well as in international fora

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Implementation task

- Information System: IT developments, Implementing Acts, up and running by the entry into application

- Benchmarking: Implementing act, running by the entry into application

- Guidelines: For operators and traders, for competent authorities, on certain definitions

- Review: Impact assessment and legislative proposal (when needed)
    - First review: Other wooded land (one year after entry into force, before entry into application)
    - Second review: Commodities, products, other ecosystems, financial institutions (two years after entry into force)
    - Third review: Smallholders, trade facilitation tools, degradation, circumvention, etc. (five years after entry into force)

Outreach activities

- Information sessions for EU Delegations: To equip EUDELs to solve questions in partner countries

- Information sessions for third country Ambassadors: Aimed at explaining Regulation and address questions

- Local workshops in third countries: To explain Regulation to local officials and stakeholders

- Extensive interaction with third countries: Bilateral meetings at technical and political level

- Missions and relevant multilateral fora: Information and discussion on deforestation and forest degradation

- Deforestation platform: Key forum for interactions and implementation

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Expected results

- EU answers citizens demands and guarantees that the products that they buy will not contribute to destroying forests worldwide

- EU reduces its contribution to global deforestation – saving a minimum of 32 million tons of carbon per year

- EU leads the way at global level with most ambitious attempt to curb consumption-driven deforestation – inspiring others to take action

- EU encourages partner countries to step up protection of its forests via the cooperation programs, the benchmarking system and the market incentives of the Regulation – creating new businesses opportunities for sustainable farmers around the globe

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EU deforestaration legislation

- The Regulation will have an impact on suppliers whether in the EU or abroad

- All relevant players need to get ready for application by the end of 2024 – the fastest to adapt will enjoy a competitive advantage

- EU is ready to work closely with and support the partner countries' efforts to promote the transition to sustainable agricultural production, sustainable forest management and the development of transparent and sustainable supply chains.

- The Regulation is based on the following principles:

- Transparency, accountability and sound scientific and methodological basis

- Consistency with agreed international commitments, notably halting deforestation at the levels of December 2020 in line with SDG 15

- Non-discrimination, as it equally treats domestic and imported commodities and products and covers both imports and exports.
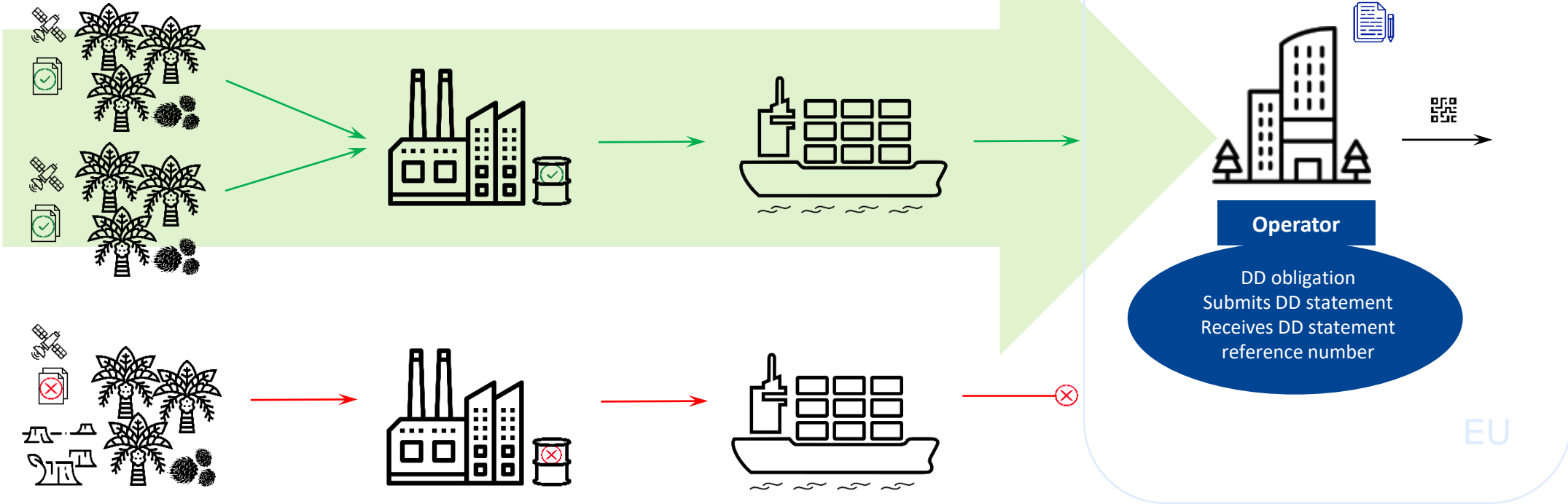
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EU company sourcing palm oil

1. Some palm oil plants in producer country are grown on deforestation-free plantations and some on deforested land

2. Palm fruits from confirmed deforestation-free and other plantations are processed separately, although deforestation-free fruit from different plantations can be mixed

3. The deforestation-free palm oil is kept segregated during transport. Geolocation of all plantations contributing to the shipment is required

4. EU importer places the deforestation-free palm oil on the market

Operator

DD obligation
Submits DD statement
Receives DD statement reference number

EU

Please note that infographic shows an example of a potential supply chain scenario and is not representative of all supply chains

EU chocolate brand traceable cocoa supply chain

1. Cocoa farms are mapped, and their geolocations are assessed to ensure deforestation-free
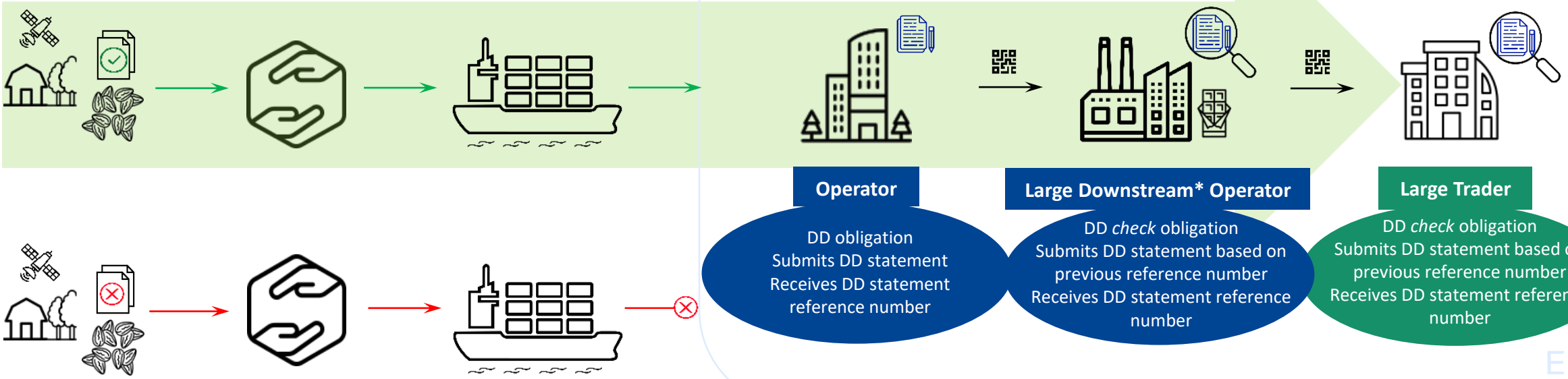
2. Farmers deliver deforestation-free cocoa beans directly to cooperatives, where they are kept segregated

3. Beans from deforestation-free farms kept segregated during export to EU

4. Importer in EU Member State buys deforestation-free beans and places them on the market

5. Chocolate manufacturer in the EU processes cocoa into chocolate bars and places them on the market

6. Large EU retailer sells individual chocolate bars to consumers, making the chocolate bars available on the market

Operator

DD obligation
Submits DD statement
Receives DD statement reference number

Large Downstream* Operator

DD *check* obligation
Submits DD statement based on previous reference number
Receives DD statement reference number

Large Trader

DD *check* obligation
Submits DD statement based on previous reference number
Receives DD statement reference number

*Downstream is used for "operators and traders further down the supply chain", as per Article 4(8), 4(9), and 4(9a), and Article 4a(2)

Please note that infographic shows an example of a potential supply chain scenario and is not representative of all supply chains
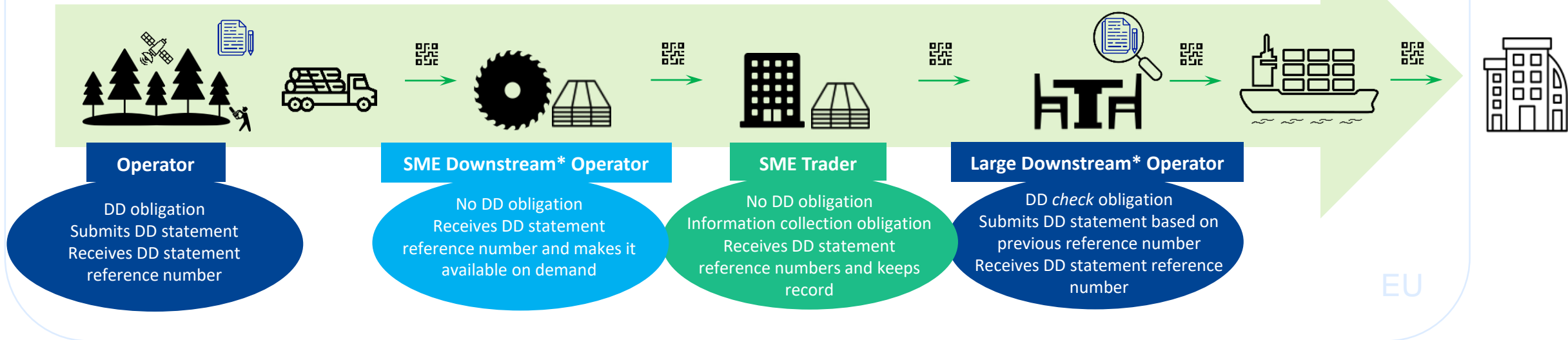
Domestic timber exported from EU as furniture

1. EU forest owner harvests trees. The timber is placed on the EU market at point of harvest

2. Tagged logs are transported to sawmill

3. Sawmill only accepts deforestation-free timber for processing. Places sawn wood on the EU market

4. Small timber merchant buys from several mills. Makes sawn wood available on the EU market

5. Furniture maker buys from several timber merchants, ensuring compliance of all wood used for the furniture. Exports furniture from EU

EU

Operator

DD obligation
Submits DD statement
Receives DD statement
reference number

SME Downstream* Operator

No DD obligation
Receives DD statement
reference number and makes it
available on demand

SME Trader

No DD obligation
Information collection obligation
Receives DD statement
reference numbers and keeps
record

Large Downstream* Operator

DD *check* obligation
Submits DD statement based on
previous reference number
Receives DD statement reference
number

*Downstream is used for "operators and traders further down the supply chain", as per Article 4(8), 4(9), and 4(9a), and Article 4a(2)

Please note that infographic shows an example of a potential supply chain scenario and is not representative of all supply chains

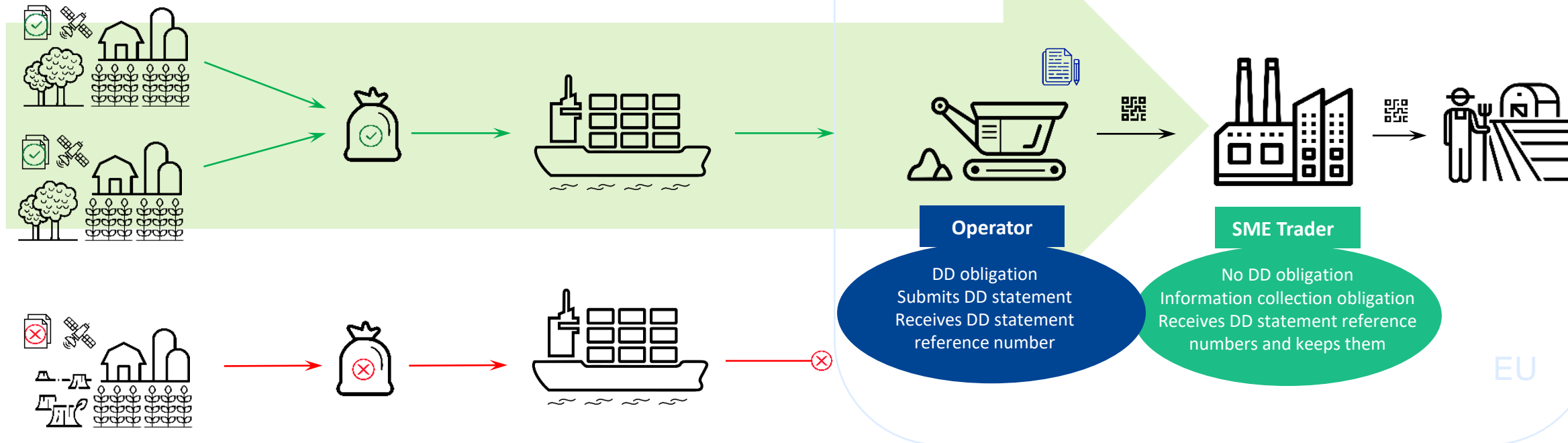# Sourcing of livestock feed made from certified soybeans

1. Soybeans from certified farms (geolocated as deforestation-free by certification body) kept segregated from beans sourced from elsewhere throughout storage and transport

2. Deforestation-free soybeans kept segregated during export to EU. Geolocation of all farms contributing to the deforestation-free shipment is required

3. EU operator imports soybeans from deforestation-free farms, and combines and crushes them into soymeal in the EU. Operator places the soymeal on the EU market

4. SME trader buys soymeal and resells it to farmers, making it available on the EU market

5. EU pig farmer buys the soymeal

Operator

DD obligation
Submits DD statement
Receives DD statement reference number

SME Trader

No DD obligation
Information collection obligation
Receives DD statement reference numbers and keeps them

EU

Please note that infographic shows an example of a potential supply chain scenario and is not representative of all supply chains

Relevant articles of legal text

Article 4 (obligations of operators), specifically paragraphs 8, 9 and 9a

Article 4a (obligations of traders), specifically paragraph 2

Annex II (due diligence statement)

EU Forest Strategy

Forestry Strategy and related actions

- 1998: EU Forestry Strategy

- 2005: Implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy

- 2006: Forest Action Plan

- 2010: EU Timber regulation

- 2011: Launch of the review of the EU Forestry Strategy

- 2013: New Forest Strategy

- 2019: Publication of the European Green Deal

- 2020: Publication of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030

- 2021: Publication of the new EU forest strategy for 2030

- 2023: Commission publishes guidelines on closer to nature forest management and payment schemes for forest ecosystem services

- Commission publishes two sets of guidelines on forests
    - Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting
    - Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests

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New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS New EU Forest Strategy for 2030

- https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0572

EU Forest Strategy for 2030

- As a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal and building on the 2030 biodiversity strategy, the Commission adopted the new EU forest strategy for 2030, covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services that forests provide.

- It sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience.

- It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change.

- This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations.

- It builds on best available scientific evidence and will be implemented in respect of subsidiarity and better regulation principles.

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At the core of the EUFS: the economic, social and environmental functions of forests

- the multi-functional role of forests

- the contribution of foresters and the entire forest-based value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy

- ensuring that forest ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected.

- adequate forest monitoring and strategic planning for the future

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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Promoting sustainable forest bioeconomy for long-lived wood products

- Ensuring sustainable use of wood-based resources for bioenergy

- Promoting non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism

- Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy

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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Promoting long-lived wood products
  - Develop a 2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings.
  - Establish a standard, robust and transparent methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products and other building materials.
  - Promote research and innovation on architecture, design and materials via demonstration projects through Horizon Europe, the LIFE program and the Innovation Fund.
  - Consider long-lived wood products in full respect of biodiversity objectives in the upcoming carbon farming initiative and carbon removals certificates framework.

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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Wood-based resources for Bioenergy
    - Closely monitor transposition of sustainability criteria (2018) and, where needed, take enforcement action.
    - Adopt strengthened sustainability criteria in the Revision of RED .
    - Continue to analyse the impact of the national support schemes on biomass supply and demand, biodiversity and carbon sinks, and possible market distortions, and assess the possibility for further limitations regarding support schemes to forest biomass, to ensure bioenergy remains sustainable.
    - Review, complement and update the Taxonomy Climate Delegate Act for forestry and bioenergy, where necessary.

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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Promoting the non-Wood bioeconomy
  - Promote coordinated and integrated regional, national and subnational programmes on the sustainable production of non-wood forest products.
  - Promote the use of the Natura 2000 logo for non-wood forest-based products and services.
  - Promote collaboration between the tourism sector, forest-owners and nature protection services, and standards and norms for eco-tourism activities and create a new alliance between the professionals of tourism and foresters, involving the World Tourism Organisation.

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Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries

- Developing Skills
    - Encourage forest and forestry stakeholders to establish a skills partnership under the Pact for Skills and make use of the European Social Fund Plus.
    - Build a toolkit to help Member States to establish life-long programs and advice to foresters and adapt education and training to the challenges and needs of today's forest needs and realities, and develop employment opportunities.
    - Promote cooperation and connect pupils, students, teachers and stakeholders through the Education for Climate Coalition on the role of forests, including on the benefits of outdoor learning.

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Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems

- Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests

- Ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience

- Re- and afforestation of biodiverse forests

- Financial incentives for forest owners and managers for improving the quality and quantity of EU forests

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Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems

- Propose a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration.

- Define, map and strictly protect all primary and old growth forests.

- Identify additional indicators as well as thresholds or ranges for sustainable forest management concerning forest ecosystem conditions, such as health, biodiversity and climate objectives.

- Develop guidelines on biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation.

- Develop a definition and adopt guidelines for closer-to-nature-forestry practices and voluntary closer-to-nature forest management certification scheme.

Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems

- Provide guidance and promote knowledge exchanges on good practices on climate adaptation and resilience, using inter alia the Climate-ADAPT platform.

- Supplement the revision of the legislation on forest reproductive material by the end of 2022 with measures to promote material suitable for future climate.

- Monitor the situation of tree health in the EU, including the impact of invasive alien species, diseases and pests such as bark beetles, and encourage the necessary preventive actions for early detection and eradication.

- Implement the 3 billion trees pledge based on the overall principle of planting and growing the right tree in the right place and for the right purpose.

Financial incentives

- CAP / EU funds
  - Increase the uptake of rural development funds available for forests.
  - Promote forest-related interventions in the future CAP (2023-2027) in relation to the European Green Deal objectives, and in other EU financial instruments (e.g. Cohesion Policy, LIFE, Horizon Europe, Interreg).
  - Promote the set-up of ecosystem services payment schemes.
  - Provide, as part of the CAP, new means to share information on good practices on best design and implementation of forest-relevant interventions, fostering the exchange between experts in MS, providing demonstration tools and supporting local and regional networking.
  - Pay attention to forest related measures proposed under the CAP Strategic Plans
  - Promote a network of forest-dominant rural areas and municipalities in the context of the long-term vision for rural areas
  - Carry out a study on behavioral science regarding the uptake of public funds by foresters

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Financial incentives

- Ecosystem services
  - Provide advice and technical guidance on the development of ecosystem service payment scheme.
  - Complement action via LIFE preparatory action with stakeholders on how payments for ecosystem services can be incorporated in EU funding programmes.
  - Promote forest-related remuneration schemes in an action plan for carbon farming and carbon removal certification.
  - Identify and address possible hurdles posed by the EU legislation and State Aid Guidelines to grant adequate public support to services beneficial for the public interest, to facilitate the use of national funds for forestry measures and target them better for ecosystem services in the forthcoming revision of the State aid guidelines.

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Strategic forest monitoring, reporting and data collection

- Improved use of Copernicus products, other remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring

- Enhancement of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)

- New legislative proposal on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection and Strategic Plans for Forests

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Forest monitoring & Reporting

- Put forward a new legislative proposal on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection to ensure a coordinated EU forest monitoring, data collection and reporting system

- Prepare Strategic Plans for Forests for forests and the forest based sector by Member States competent authorities, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle and the Treaty

- Strengthen the existing monitoring of climate effects and other natural or human-induced disturbances on forests, as part of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) and on the basis of improved Copernicus products, other remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring

- Prepare and publish regular reports and lay summaries on the forests in the EU with the support of a broader European forest science partnership.

- Perform a comparative assessment of Forest Management Plans and consider setting additional criteria to ensure that they meet the objectives of the strategy, in close cooperation with MS

- Develop a European forest science partnership through the Joint Research Centre, with a view to support the development of new indicators based on remote sensing and the latest research results.

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Enabling elements

- A strong research and innovation agenda

- Inclusive and coherent EU forest governance framework

- Stepping up implementation and enforcement of existing EU acquis

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Research & Innovation

- Develop a "Planning our Future Forests" research and innovation agenda together with Member States and stakeholders by jointly identifying research gaps and future priorities for forestry and the forest-based sector.

- Support the evidence-based design and implementation of forest restoration strategies with engagement of the society and in different ecological and socio-economic settings, including through the planned research and innovation mission on soil health for forest soils.

- Enhance EU cooperation by proposing a Research and Innovation partnership on forestry, including flagships for testing and demonstrating solutions on selected key strategic domains. Work with Member States to strengthen the role of forestry in the European Innovation Partnership-AGRI.

- Implement complementary actions in support of Disaster Risk Reduction policies (including forest fires) through the Horizon Europe Civil Security for Society programme to enhance capacities in risk and resilience management and governance.

- Develop a Citizens' science Programme for forest biodiversity, notably engaging citizens and civil society in monitoring forest biodiversity.

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Governance

- Dialogue with the Member States:
  - Update governance that brings the Standing Forestry Committee and the Working Group on Forest and Nature (WGFN) into a single expert group with a mandate that reflects all environmental, social and economic objectives of the new EU Forest Strategy and multiple Member State representatives from different Ministries

- Engagement with civil society, forest owners and managers, industry and academia:
  - create one group with revised mission statement, broader membership and focusing on the new EU Forest Strategy, building on the experience of the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork and the Working Group on Forest and Nature.

- Ensure regular joint meetings between the two new groups, at least twice a year, and commit to full transparency of the discussions.

- Establish better synergies with the EG on Forest-based Industries and Sector-related Issues

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Achieving the EU Forest Strategy goals - what can science tell us?

- #ThinkForest webinar took place on 26 June 2023

- Welcome by Helga Pülzl, Assistant Director for Policy Support, EFI

- Video message by Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

- Meeting the EU forest Strategy Goals – presentation of a new study by Mireia Pecurul-Botines, Senior Researcher, CTFC

- Panel Discussion on implementing the EU Forest Strategy: opportunities and challenges

- Moderator: Janez Potočnik, ThinkForest President

- Panelists:
    - Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
    - Ionut Sorin Baciu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania
    - Eeva Primmer, Research Director, Professor, SYKE

- Closing remarks by Helga Pülzl, Assistant Director for Policy Support, EFI

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_JcX6t1rrk&

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The new EU Forest Strategy

- https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/new-eu-forest-strategy

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu8KKIye8uA

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