

Inter-Sectoral Linkages and the EU's Forestry Strategy

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Abstract

The EU Forestry Strategy is a dynamic process with the overall objective to ensure that Europe's forests are managed in a sustainable way, while recognising their multifunctional role in society.

This strategy encompasses both the forest programmes of the Member States and the forest-related actions at EU level. Sectoral forestry policy lies hereby with the Member States in line with the principle of subsidiarity and the EU can contribute towards the achievement of the strategic objectives by a number of actions and initiatives within existing Community policies. The multi-level activities are requiring strong, systematic and effective mechanism for co-ordination as regards forestry matters.

The strengthening of co-ordination is also gaining of importance because the traditional policy structures related to the forestry sector are living substantial changes during the last years. Economic, social and environmental policy areas are more and more interacting and are more and more influenced by increasing globalisation and progressing urbanisation. Perception of the different values of forests and the multifunctional use of forests differs between increasing urbanised population and people living in rural areas.

The linkages and interactions between an increasing number of policy areas, the growing superposition of international and national political actors as well as the necessity to involve sub-national and local entities in shaping sustainable forest development in the EU will be highlighted.

The impact of Community policies, such as internal market, competition, environment, CAP and rural development, trade, research, energy on the policy framework of the Member States will be described.

In this changing context, how can the European sector be seen in the future. Several scenarios such as «business as usual», open market and increasing competitiveness, new demands from the society to forests as well as integrated territorial approaches as a response to such demands will be developed.