

# Are additional sustainability measures needed for European biomass?

Tatu Liimatainen  
CEPF

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## Confederation of European Forest Owners

- Founded in Luxembourg in **1996**, but with roots back to early 60's
- Registered as an *association sans but lucratif (asbl)* in **Belgium since 2012**
- The **umbrella federation** of family forestry in Europe
- Represents and promotes the **common interests of family forest owners** with forests and wooded lands **in Europe** with regard to **sustainable forest management**, the recognition of the **multifunctional role of forests** and other wooded lands and the acknowledgment of **ownership rights**.



## CEPF members

20 ordinary

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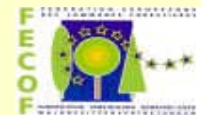
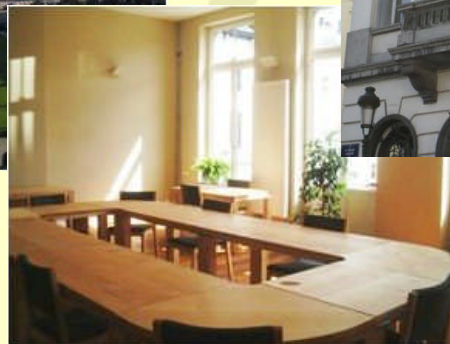
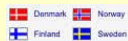
4 associated

Associated Mediterranean - ArcMed  
Associated Iberia - CONFI  
Associated France - UCFE  
Associated Austria - Waldverband



# European Forestry House

Centre of competence and expertise in forestry and wood related issues in Brussels.



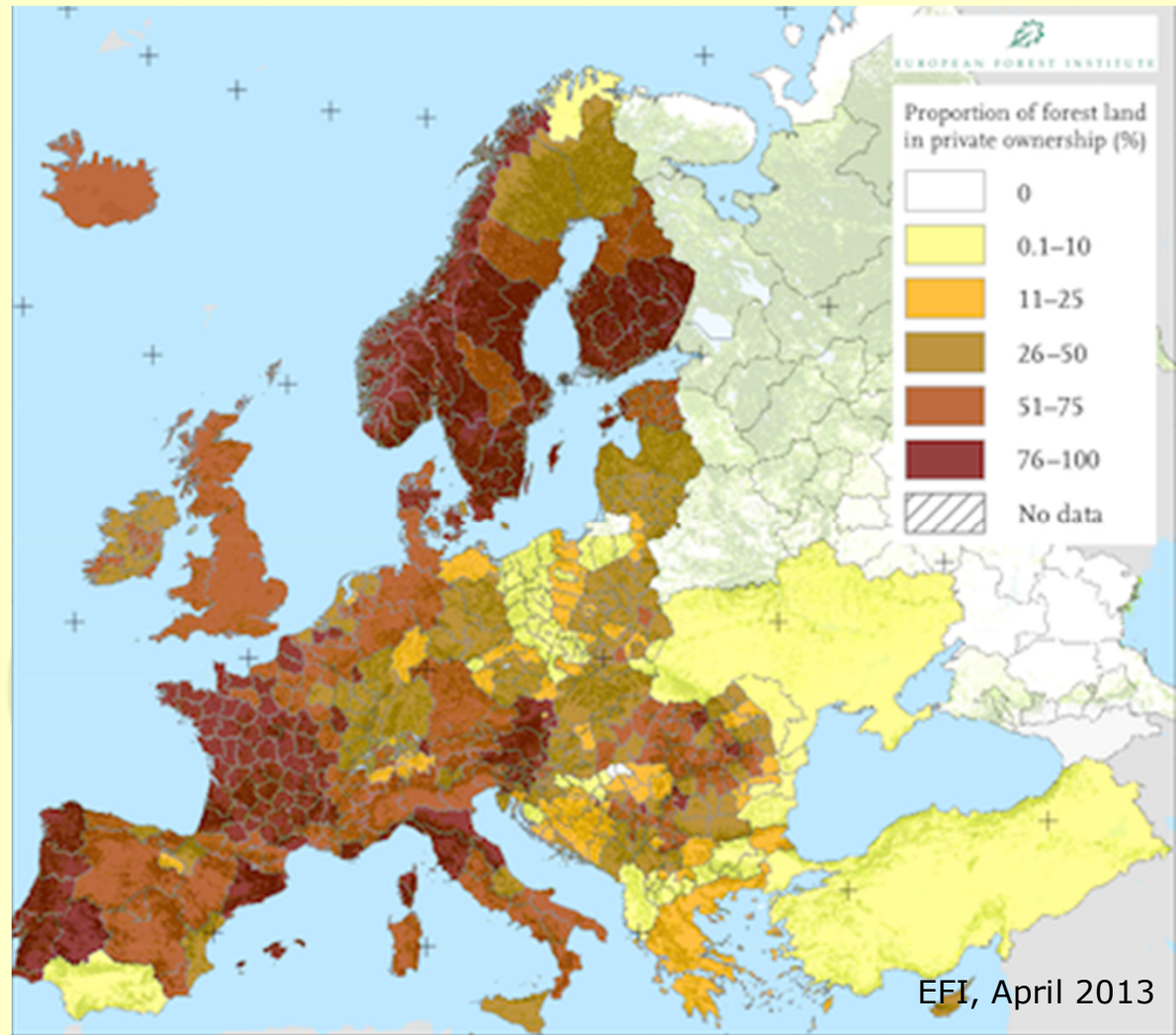
## European forests

- 38% EU's land area forested (157 mio ha)
- EU forest cover increasing by 0.5 mio ha/a
- Growing stock increase by 249 mio m<sup>3</sup>/a (1.2%)
- 64% of the annual increment harvested
- 90% of the within the EU processed timber is domestic timber
- Forest sector gross value added of 109 EUR billion (1% GDP)
- 3.5 mio employees
- Key habitat with high biodiversity, providing multiple ecosystem services



## Private forest ownership - Diversity

- About 50-60% of forests privately owned
- Approx. 16 million forest owners
- Small scale forest holdings (average size 2-50 ha)
- 83% individuals/families; 12% forest industries; 5% private institutions
- Concept of producer groups/ cooperatives



## Various instruments and regulations in place, which safeguard the principles of SFM in Europe

### At ground level, i.e.

- Forest management plans or equivalents (77%)
- Forest certification, e.g. via PEFC (50%)

### At sub-national and national level, i.e.

- Forest laws
- and other complementary regulations as nature or forest protection regulations, public procurement regulations, or land use and related planning acts
- National Forest Inventories

### At EU level, i.e.

- CAP and Rural Development
- Flora and Fauna Habitats Directive, Natura 2000
- Protective measures against harmful organisms/ invasive species
- LULUCF
- FLEGT and EU Timber Regulation

### Pan-European level

- Forest Europe SFM definition, C&I for SFM, principle guidelines, SoEF, LBA

## Why the call for new criteria?

### **Expected growing demand for wood**

- 2020-targets must be met via sustainable means

### **Concerns regarding future imports**

- Level playing field for the bioenergy
- Are imports sustainable?

### **Over harvesting within the Union**

- Soil condition and nutrient depletion
- Will bioenergy lead to over exploitation?

### **New invasive alien species and pests**

- Unreported imports a gateway for alien species and pathogens





## Why are the forest owners against additional criteria?

### **Great number of existing systems**

- At national and sub-national levels member states have proper systems in place
- Any additional system should comply with existing EU programmes and standards

### **No criteria for one single product**

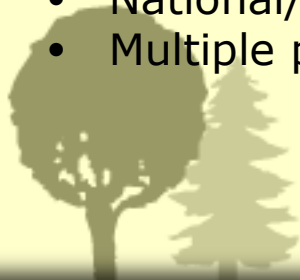
- Solid biomass for energy production derives mainly from thinning and final harvesting operations
- No need to come up with a new criteria for one single by-product

### **Additional financial and bureaucratic burden**

- A new EU-level scheme would impose relatively high cost for forest owners
- Any new bureaucratic burden should be avoided

### **Clear NO for any holding level approach**

- National/regional level verification should be sufficient
- Multiple problems in the forest management plan approach



## Finally...

Instead of questioning its sustainability and restricting the use and production of woody biomass in Europe's forests, policies should rather support **green investments** and **new technologies**, resource and energy **efficiency**, increase forest **growth** and the **mobilization** of domestic sustainable wood, and encourage the **use of wood**, not only for energy purposes, but also as a long-term product, e.g. in construction.



# Thank you!

Confederation of European Forest Owners  
European Forestry House  
Rue du Luxembourg 66  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

[www.cepf-eu.org](http://www.cepf-eu.org)

