



Council of the
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Council Conclusions on the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030
- *Approval*

Council Conclusions on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030

Statement by Portugal, France and Spain

1. As stated in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank ‘A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU’s outermost regions’, the nine outermost regions constitute an extraordinary asset for the European Union (EU), as they enrich the EU economically, culturally and geographically, and provide both a strategic access to the sea and unique natural assets, hosting 80% of the Union’s biodiversity.
2. Therefore, Portugal, France and Spain view the reference to the Outermost Regions in the Council Conclusions on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 (paragraph 12) as a way to further stress the need to respect, protect and maintain the diversity and specificity of the outermost regions’ biodiversity and forest ecosystems.

Statement by Luxembourg on the Council conclusions on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030

Forests play a key role in two major challenges for humanity, namely climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 defines the framework for action aimed at ensuring the growth, health, diversification and resilience of forests in the EU so that they can contribute significantly to our ambitions for biodiversity and the fight against climate change.

Non-resilient forests in a poor state of health are no longer able to play a multifunctional role and provide the various associated ecosystem services.

To remedy that, we need a forest strategy which prioritises making European forests resilient, healthy and diversified and which will give them a favourable conservation status in terms of biodiversity. This is a prerequisite for forests to be able to fulfil their socio-economic functions, in particular their productive function, for the coming decades. In this context, in Luxembourg's view, the measures proposed by the European Commission are the right ones to achieve these objectives, while fully respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

Luxembourg considers that the abovementioned Strategy strikes the right balance between the three pillars of sustainable development in order to unlock the potential of European forests for the future and to realise this vision of a resilient, healthy and biodiverse forest that will yield economic, social and environmental benefits for current and future generations.

In relation to the above, Luxembourg is not convinced about the wording 'EMPHASISES that the Communication would need a balanced vision on the different dimensions of sustainability' in paragraph 7 in these Council conclusions.
