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From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL on a monitoring framework for resilient European
forests
- Exchange of views

Delegations will find in annex a Presidency background note for the exchange of views on the above-mentioned subject at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") meeting on 23 January 2024.

**PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON A MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR
RESILIENT EUROPEAN FORESTS**

- Presidency Note -

On 22 November 2023, the European Commission published a Proposal for a Regulation on a Monitoring Framework for Resilient European Forests ('Proposal'). This Proposal constitutes the main legislative initiative of the "New EU Forest Strategy for 2030", published in 2021.

The proposal aims to ensure high-quality forest monitoring, which would make possible to track progress towards achieving EU targets and policy objectives concerning forests (including on biodiversity, climate and crisis response), to improve risk assessment and preparedness, to support evidence-based decision-making.

The proposal ambition is to establish a comprehensive, high-quality monitoring system (managed by the European Commission in cooperation with the Member States) that would ensure standardised or harmonised data and cover all forests and other wooded land. The above forest monitoring system would comprise 8 basic forest indicators and an additional 14 forest indicators.

The data will be obtained using a combination of remote sensing (notably through the Copernicus programme), grounds surveys, Earth observations and other sources of information. It would build on existing data sets, good practices of Member States and the technological advancement of remote sensing as well the EU capacity to provide these services.

The forest monitoring system would consist of three main elements:

- a geographically explicit identification system for the mapping and localisation of forest units;
- a forest data collection framework, specifying timing and data collection requirements; and
- a forest data sharing framework that would enable the sharing of the data between Member States, with some data available publicly.

Member States would also be encouraged to develop integrated long-term forest plans or adapt their existing integrated long-term forest plans or strategies, taking into account a medium to long-term perspective.

Questions for the exchange of views:

Considering the content of the Proposal and to guide the negotiations within the Council, Ministers are invited to exchange views on the following questions:

1. *In your opinion, what are the main elements of added value of the proposal?*
2. *What are the strong points/concepts of the proposal that you can support?*
3. *What aspects of the proposal would you consider important to be further clarified or strengthened?*

Speaking time: 3 minutes per Member State
