



Where do we stand ?

Workshop towards harmonised forest monitoring and reporting for the EU
Uppsala 1–2 Feb 2023

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‘The formulation of sound forestry policy measures and the monitoring of their implementation is dependent upon adequate statistics and other relevant information.

This applies at national as well as at Community level’

‘The idea is to try and avoid the difficulties which were encountered with other statistics which were not comparable because each Member State had developed its own definitions’

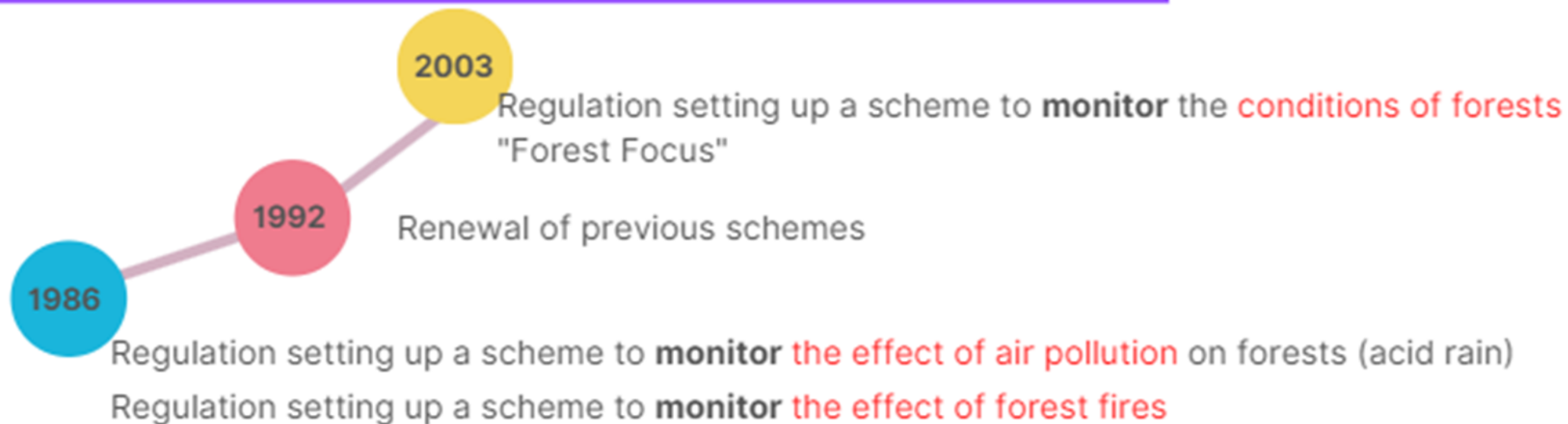
Forestry policy in the European Community (Communication from the Commission to the Council of 6.12.1978)

A side note:

EP Resolution 11.5.1979: stresses that the drawing up of a common forestry policy is seriously hampered by **the differences in national legislation** which make it extremely difficult to implement Community structural measures.

Historical developments

Previous attempts to monitor some aspects of forests - all expired



European Green Deal Communication (1st Priority of the current Commission)

Forest ecosystems are under increasing pressure, as a result of climate change. The EU's forested area needs to improve, both in quality and quantity, for the EU to reach climate neutrality and a healthy environment.

⇒ Building on the 2030 biodiversity strategy, the Commission will prepare a new EU forest strategy covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services that forests provide.

EU FS 2021 – Chapter 4 (‘the mandate’)

The Commission will 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.

As part of this, Member States competent authorities would prepare Strategic Plans for Forests for forests and the forest-based sector, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle and the Treaty, by Q1 2023.

Main elements of the mandate

- Focus on **regular and more frequent cost-efficient reporting and update of data on priority EU policy-relevant topics**, such as effects of climate change, biodiversity, health, damages, invasive alien species, forest management, and the biomass use for different socio-economic purposes.
- **High spatial and temporal granularity. Timeliness** particularly important also due to the rapid unfolding of forest natural disturbances.
- **Benefits from the EU Space Programme components** - leverage Galileo and Copernicus services to improve these processes.
- **List of parameters relevant for harmonised EU monitoring.** Data to be collected and reported **building on existing indicators and monitoring schemes at national and EU level.**

The views of other EU Institutions

Council Conclusions 15/11/2021

16. UNDERLINES the importance of a sound and transparent data and information base on forests as a basis for policy-making. RECALLS that data collection, processing, reporting and interpretation should make best and most effective use of existing national forest inventories and related international cooperation under, among others, the ENFIN network. CALLS on the Commission, together with the Member States and experts to analyse the currently existing discrepancies and possible gaps in forest data collection.

EP Resolution 13/09/22

50. Stresses the importance of accurate, integrated, qualitative, timely, comparable and up-to-date data on Europe's forests and takes note of the initiative for a legislative proposal for a framework on forest observation, reporting and data collection, with full respect for the subsidiarity principle; recalls the importance of verified data, particularly that collected at local level, as many forest characteristics can only be verified on the ground; underlines that the broad availability, high quality, transparency, completeness and harmonisation of data and reporting are essential for meeting the goals of the strategy

ECA Special Report 21/2021 (ref. To CAP)

The common EU monitoring system does not measure the biodiversity and climate change effects of forestry measures.

The current process

- Commission – two consultations (Call for evidence and Open Public Consultation), ongoing Impact Assessment (4 expert workshops), proposal expected Q2 2023;
- Dialogue with MS experts through an *ad hoc* SFC sub-group (3 meetings held so far);
- Very active and important role of CZ and SE PCYs – Technical Workshops;
- Weekly (or daily) meetings with stakeholders.

Key messages received

- Strong support for a EU framework on monitoring;
- Build on NFIs experience (where existing);
- Earth Observation essential complement, to be combined with ground-truthing;
- Questions on planning – (now called ‘integrated long-term forest planning’).

Biodiversity underpins sustainable development

- Biodiversity loss: key threats for humanity
- Almost half of global GDP is linked to nature
- Connections between biodiversity loss, climate change and pandemics
- Restoring biodiversity core part of recovery



