

A man and a woman are standing in a forest, looking up at the trees. The woman is on the left, wearing a green jacket and blue jeans, pointing upwards. The man is on the right, wearing a plaid shirt and blue jeans, also pointing upwards. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage. The entire image has a green tint.

Towards implementation of the European Green Deal policies: challenges for the Nordic forest sector

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Who are we
representing?



European forest owners



**~16 millions
forest owners**

**60% EU
forest area**



CEPF Members

20 Ordinary members – national confederations:



4 Associated members:

CONFI, Waldverband Österreich, Institut Agrícola, UCFF



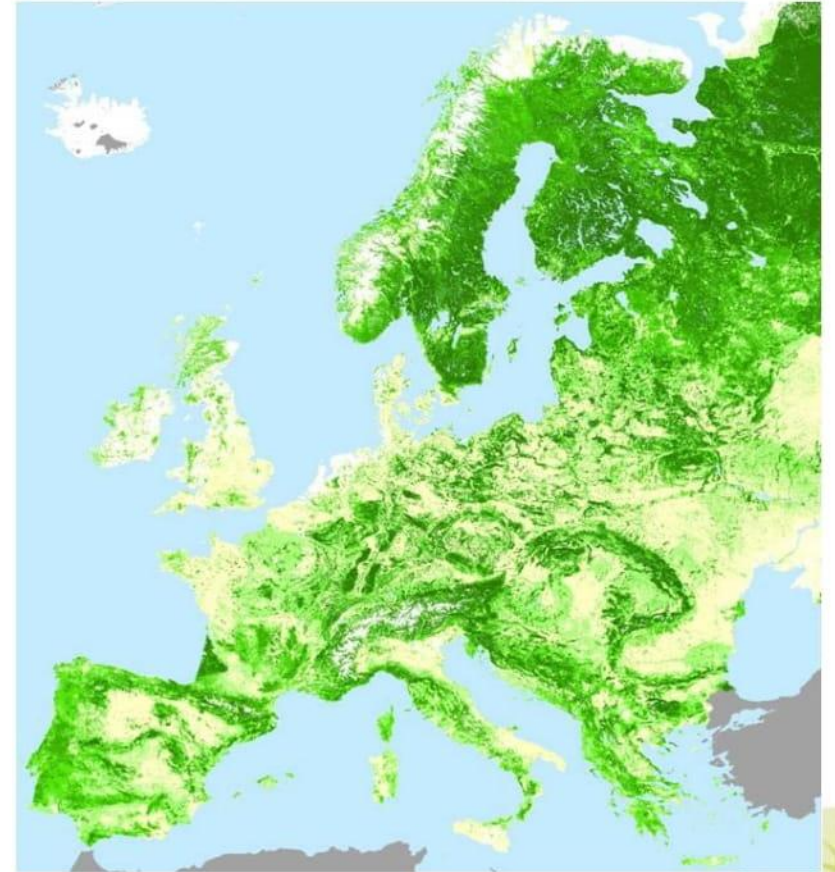
European forests facts

- 182m ha (42% of EU land area)
- Growth in past 25 years: +9M ha, +7.4bn m³
- 90% of EU wood industry supply originates from EU forests
- Forest-based sector: 8% of manufacturing added value in the EU and creates close to 4 million jobs

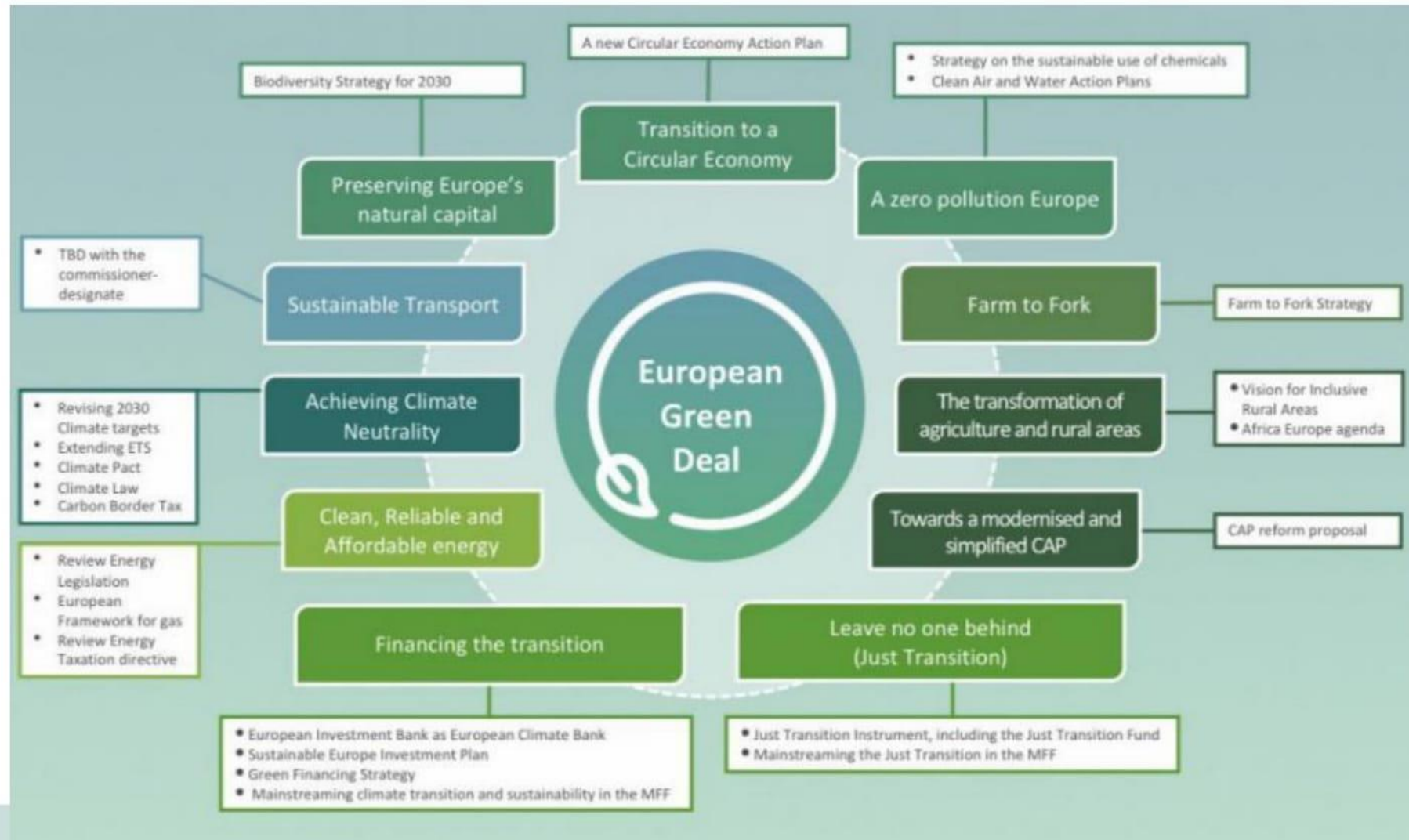


Nordic family forest owners

- Nordic Family Forestry Alliance NSF:
 - Over one million forest owners in Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway
- Key values:
 - Sustainable forest management and multifunctionality
 - Property rights and subsidiarity
 - Viability and profitability of the forest sector



Green Deal: the Commission's priority



EU forest-
related
policies
-
Helping to
deliver Green
Deal
objectives



Most relevant EU forest-related policies under development





EU Forest Strategy for 2030

Non-binding

- Adopted in July 2021
- All aspects of sustainable forest management included, but concrete actions show imbalance of goals:
 - Economic and investment-related aspects are absent
- Some key actions:
 - EU voluntary closer-to-nature forest management certification scheme
 - New EU SFM indicators, thresholds, and ranges
 - Strict protection of all primary and old-growth forests
 - Monitoring and reporting legislation



Deforestation and Forest Degradation Regulation

Binding

- EC proposal on November 2021 → in trilogue
- Definition of ‘forest degradation’
 - Species conversion must be possible
 - If forest is replanted after harvesting, this should not count as ‘forest degradation’
- Geo-localisation under interpretation
 - Compromise needed to make overly precise geo-localisation feasible



LULUCF Regulation and RED III directive

Binding

- Proposals in July 2021 → trilogue
- Part of the FitFor55 package (incl. 2050 climate neutrality target)
- LULUCF: EU-wide carbon removal target of -310 Mt CO₂ by 2030
 - Increased carbon sinks by 15 %
- RED III Directive: Is forest biomass considered renewable?
 - EU parliament: Use of primary biomass for EU renewable energy targets capped
 - "No-go areas" and strict requirements for bioenergy sourcing



Taxonomy Regulation

Binding

- Adopted in June 2020 → Delegated Acts
- Classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities
- New (reporting) requirements
 - Climate DA: climate benefit analysis and forest management plan
 - Biodiversity DA: forestry criteria still not agreed upon





Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Non-binding

- Adopted in June 2020
- Protect 30% of EU land and sea and strictly protect 10% of these areas
 - *Covering areas of very high biodiversity value and important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, including all primary and old-growth forests*
- Guidelines on closer-to-nature forestry practices



Nature Restoration Regulation

Binding

- Published in June 2022 → EP and EU Council
- Restoration measures within Annex I of the Habitats Directives and later beyond
- For all forest ecosystems, increasing trends to be achieved on set of indicators:
 - Standing and lying deadwood, uneven age structure, forest connectivity, common forest birds index, soil organic carbon
- Ownership concerns in designation process; finance; scope of forest chapter (implication on management)



Conclusions



Conclusions (1)

- Productive aspects and realities of forest management are overlooked in Green Deal- related policies
- Increased forest sinks and conservation as focus in Green Deal, bioeconomy aspects lacking
- Although EU does not have “a common EU forest policy”, implications to forestry through other policy areas
- Changing climate and geo-political instability bring pressure towards Green Deal implementation



Conclusions (2)

Possible impacts of EU forest-related policies on

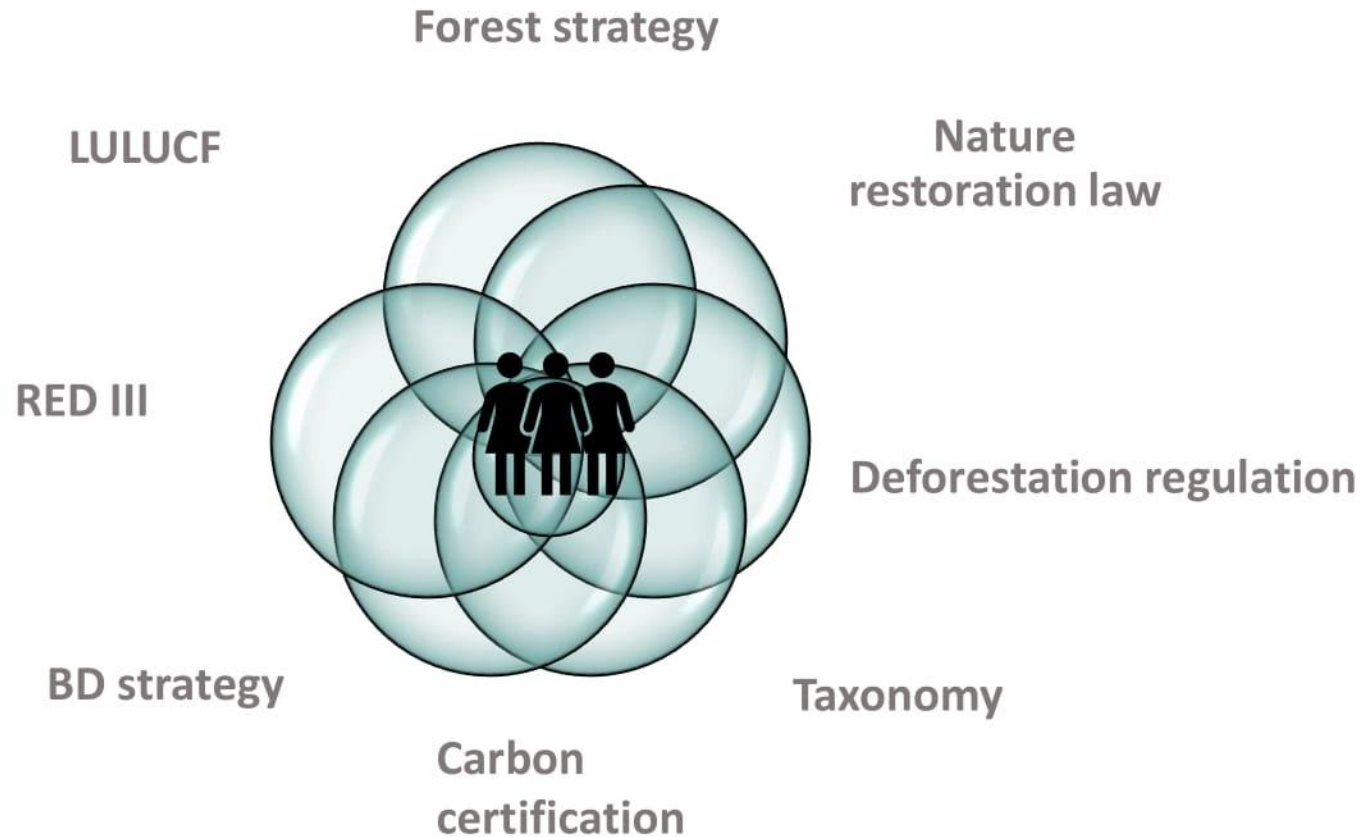
- Areas available for wood supply
- Costs of management and harvesting
- Products available

➡ **Uncertainties for forest sector (investments, jobs, forest holdings' profitability)**

➡ **Impacts on the forest owners' motivation and engagement in long-term management**



Conclusions (3): No common forest policy?



A photograph of a forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm and serene atmosphere. The sun is low in the sky, casting long, golden rays through the dense canopy of tall, thin trees. The forest floor is covered in green moss and fallen leaves, with dappled sunlight creating a pattern of light and shadow.

Thank you for your attention!