



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



EU Forestry Strategy

Screening of Chapter 27, Brussels 5 April 2006

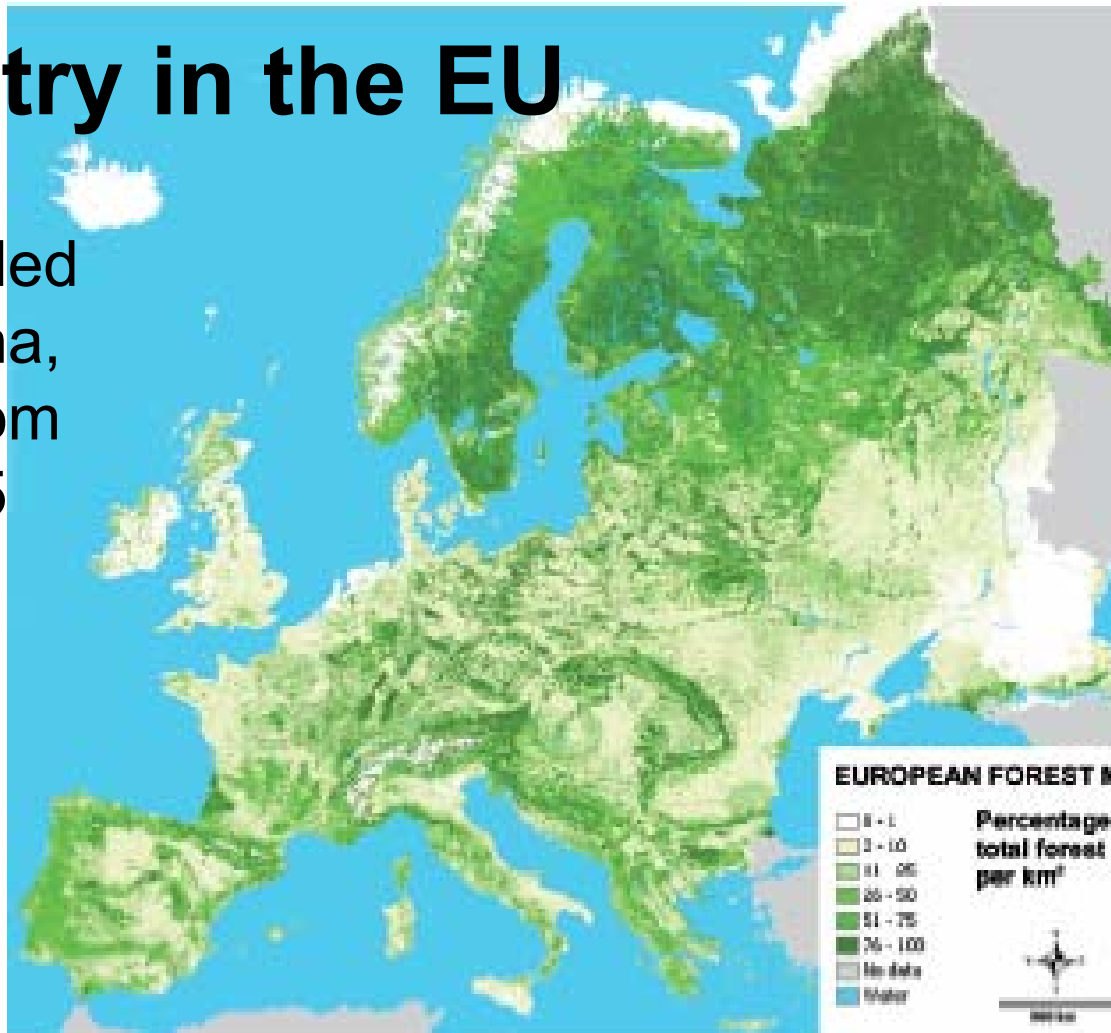
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Unit AGRI F6: Bioenergy, biomass, forestry and climate change



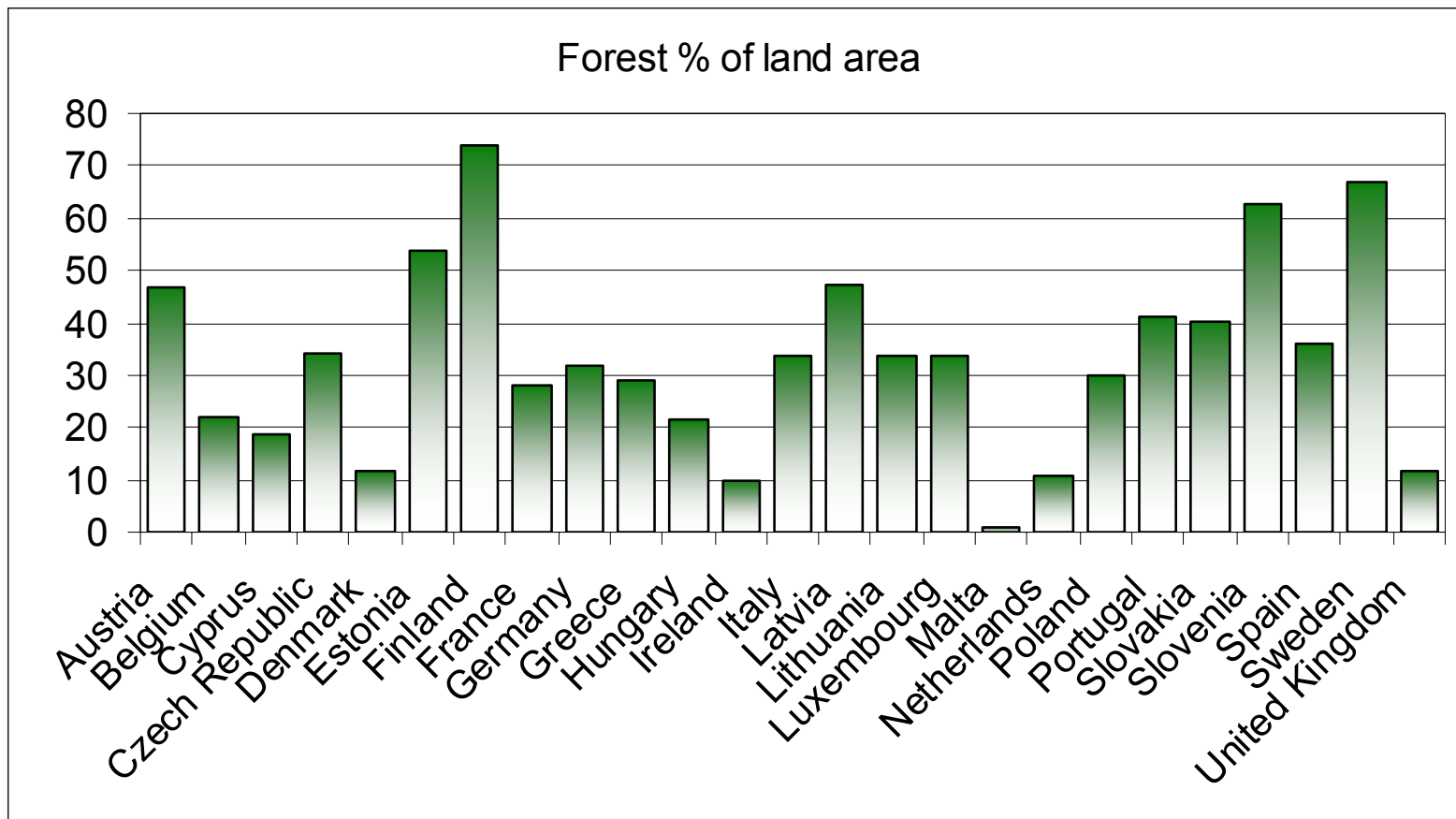
Forestry in the EU

Forests and other wooded land cover 166 million ha, (43,2% of land area) from which forests cover 145 million ha, (37,1%)





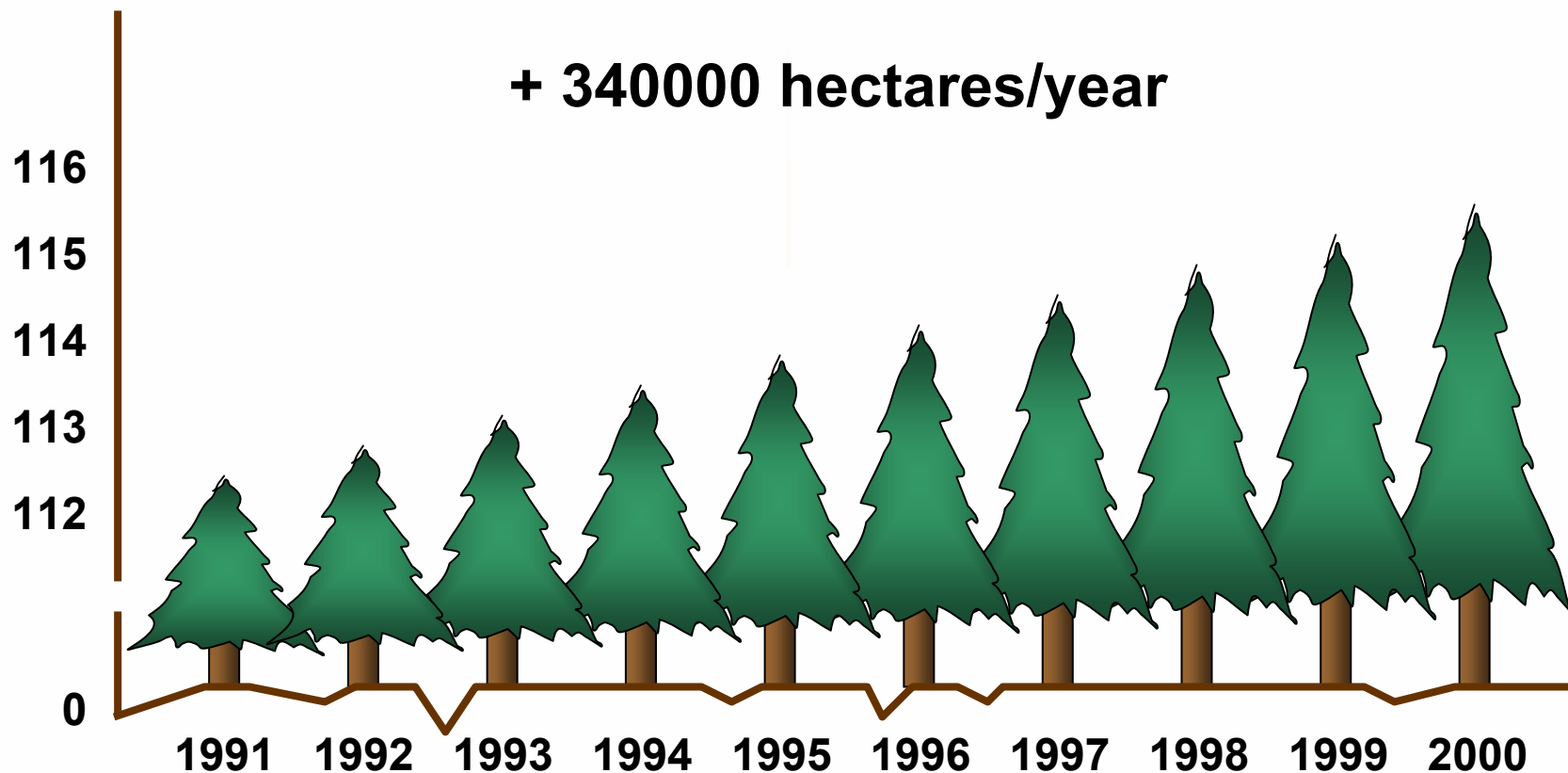
Country distribution





Increasing surface

+ 340000 hectares/year





Forest ownership



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- Public forest represents 40% of forest area and private forests: 60% with about 15 million forest owners.
- The average size of EU state-owned forest holdings is about 1 000 ha,
- Communal forests:~ 300 ha
- Private forest holdings have an average size of 13 ha. (many < 5 ha)



Forest products

	World production	Of which in EU		Net export
Industrial round wood	1600 Mm ³	323 Mm ³	20%	- 25.0 Mm ³
Pulp	185 Mtons	46 Mtons	25%	- 6.5 Mtons
Paper	340 Mtons	102 Mtons	30%	8.5 Mtons
Sawn-goods	405 Mm ³	101 Mm ³	25%	5.5 Mm ³
Wood-based panels	200 Mm ³	60 Mm ³	30%	0.5 Mm ³

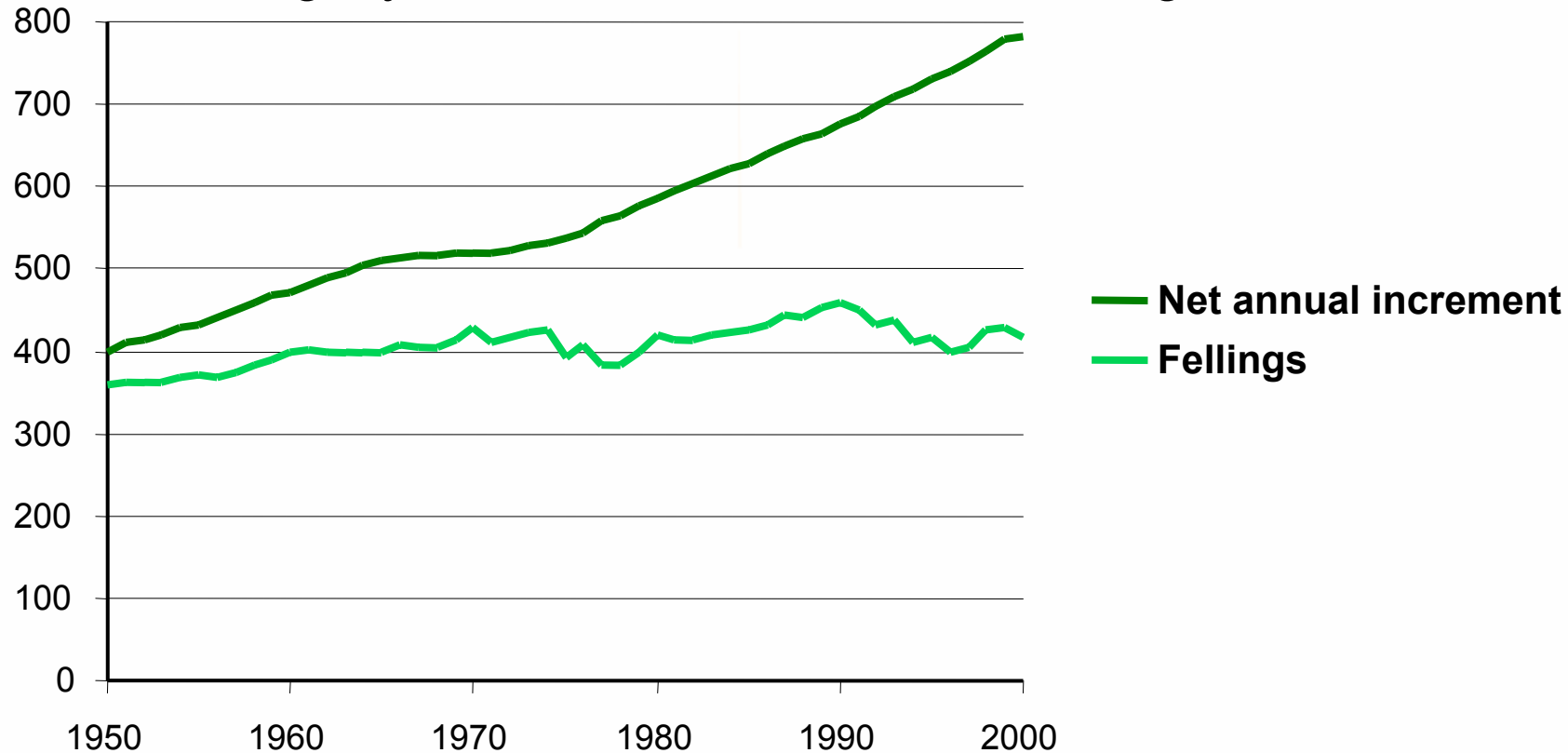
Forest sector employs around 3.4 million people (forestry, forest-based and related industries)

Forest products



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- Despite these large quantities of production, an average annual volume of timber harvested in the EU is only slightly over 60% of the annual forest growth.





The EU Forestry Strategy (Council Resolution, 15.12.1998)

Background:

There are no specific provisions for forestry in the Treaties

However, since 1964 the Commission has taken several steps to enhance co-ordination in forest policy and implemented some specific forestry measures



The EU Forestry Strategy (Council Resolution, 15.12.1998)

Background:

1964: Commission Communication on the co-ordination of countries' forestry policy

1986: Forestry Memorandum and an specific forestry regulation

1989: Action programme for forestry and setting up of an Standing Forestry Committee

1997: European Parliament Report and Commission Communication on a Forestry Strategy



The EU Forestry Strategy (Council Resolution, 15.12.1998)

Aim:

To increase coherence between forest policies of the MS and Community forest-related activities

In response to:

- Increasingly complex array of Community legislation and financial incentives which may impact on forest policies of MS
- EU to express with one voice in the international forest policy debates
- To strengthen co-ordination on forestry matters in the EU



The EU Forestry Strategy

Overall principles:

- Sustainable forest management
- Multifunctional role of forests

Key elements

- EU actions are based on the principle of subsidiarity and the concept of shared responsibility
- Implementation of international commitments through national forest programmes
- The need to improve co-ordination and cooperation



The EU Forestry Strategy

Specific actions:

- Participation in UNFF and MCPFE
- Rural development policy
- Forest protection measures (atmospheric pollution, forest fires) - Forest Focus
- Biodiversity and Natura 2000
- Forests and climate change
- Competitiveness of the forest sector
- Research
- Co-ordination



Implementation of the Forestry Strategy

- Inter-Service Group on Forestry
- Standing Forestry Committee
- Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork



Forestry Measures within Rural Development (CR No 1698/2005)

Axis 1 : Improving Competitiveness

Measures aiming at promoting knowledge and improving human potential:

- - Vocational training and information actions for persons engaged in the agricultural and forestry sectors
- - Use of advisory services by farmers and forest holders
- - Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as of forestry advisory services



Axis 1 : Improving Competitiveness

Measures aiming at restructuring physical potential and promoting innovation:

- **Improving the economic value of forests**
- **Adding value to primary agricultural and forestry production**
- **Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector**
- **Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation agriculture and forestry**



Axis 2 : Improving the Environment and the countryside

Forestry land:

- first afforestation of agricultural land
- first establishment of agro-forestry systems,
- first afforestation of non-agricultural land
- Natura 2000 payments;
- forest-environment payments;
- restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;
- support for non-productive investments



Axis 3 : Diversification, quality of life

- **Diversification of the rural economy:**
diversification to non-agricultural activities; support for micro-enterprises; tourism
- **Improvement of the quality of life:**
basic services; village renewal; conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage (natural and cultural)
- **Training and capacity building**



Implementation report of the EU Forestry Strategy

- Commission Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy, COM(2005) 84 final, March 2005

The Commission proposed:

- (1) to develop an EU Action Plan for Sustainable Forest Management
- (2) to review the existing Community means and practices to facilitate co-ordination in the field of forestry



Preparation of the EU Forest Action Plan

Procedure for developing an Action Plan

- Workshops with invited experts
- Cooperation with Member States, working groups (3) within the Standing Forestry Committee
- Stakeholder consultations (Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork)

Opinions of Community Institutions

- European Parliament
- EESC
- CoR



- **Driving forces**
- **Vision**
- **Opportunities and constraints**
- **Strategic objectives**
- **Actions at EU and national level**
- **Review of instruments at EU level to realise the proposed actions**



Main Principles of the EU Forest Action Plan

- To consider sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests as the overarching common principles;
- To acknowledge that national forest programmes provide a suitable framework for implementing international forest-related commitments;
- To address the increasing need to take global and cross-sectoral issues into account in forest policy, and to improve coherence and coordination in this respect;
- To contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of the EU forest sector;
- To further good governance of the EU forests;
- To respects the principle of subsidiarity.



Forests for society: long-term multi-functional forestry fulfilling societal needs.

4 Main Objectives

1. Improving long-term competitiveness;
2. Improving and protecting the environment;
3. Contributing to the quality of life;
4. Fostering coordination and communication.

Actions:

Core Actions

Additional Actions



Improving long-term competitiveness

Objective: To improve the long-term competitiveness of forestry and to increase the sustainable use of forest products, goods and services (5 core actions)



Improving and protecting the environment

Objective: To maintain and enhance biodiversity, integrity, health and resilience of forest ecosystems at multiple geographical scales (4 core actions)



Contributing to the quality of life

Objective: To contribute to the quality of life, by preserving and improving the social and cultural dimensions of forests and forestry (3 core action)



Fostering coordination and communication

Objective: To improve coherence and cross-sectoral co-operation in order to balance economic, environmental and socio-cultural objectives at multiple organisational and institutional levels
(6 core actions)



Monitoring and reporting

Duration of the Action Plan: 5 years

Mid-term evaluation: 2009

Final evaluation and report: 2012

SFC as main co-ordinating body between the Commission and the Member States in the implementation of the Action Plan and actively involved in the mid-term and final evaluations