



## **European Network of Forested Regions**

### **Regions' views on the new EU Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans**

*Established in 2012, ERIAFF is an informal network of regions that seeks to promote collaborations for the development of the interregional dimension of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI).*

*The European Network of Forested Regions is the ERIAFF thematic group that brings together regions and forestry operators committed to promote both the innovation in forest-based sectors and the development of forest policies at European and regional levels. It is also a platform to provide information and coordinate the feedback to upcoming EU initiatives relevant for regions interested in the forest sector.*

*European regions welcome the EU's initiative for the Eu wide Framework for Forest Monitoring and Strategic Plans, since the forest sector employs more than 2 million people and it's an important economic pillar for regional development in Europe, with a gross value added of more than 100,000 million euros in the EU-27 in 2018.*

*There are probably more than 20 million forest owners in Europe, managing their forest holdings, in many cases integrated in agricultural farms, for the provision of clean air and water, for biodiversity conservation and to provide renewable natural resources sustainably. It means that there are millions of European families linked to forest management, living in rural and urban areas, maintaining the cohesion of our landscape.*

*Strategic Forest Plans depend on regions in many European countries, and they provide opportunities for the active conservation of forests, for the long-term provision of ecosystem services and for development of bioeconomy and the transition towards a carbon neutral economy.*

*Regions have a strong forest expertise, with universities, innovation centres and clusters that are actively monitoring forests and the forest-based sector, providing valuable information at the local and national levels.*

*Regions are concerned about the energy crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression and would like to recall the role of forests in securing energy and EU's self-sufficiency.*

**In short, our position states as follows:**



1. The subsidiarity principle must be respected.
2. It is necessary to increase the knowledge of forest ecosystems and the forest sector in the EU. Emphasis should be placed on the perceived knowledge gaps. An assessment of the drawbacks of the current EU forest-related reporting should be undertaken.
3. Forest-related policies and forest management must be based on real forest monitoring data. Knowledge-based decision-making considers and enables well-functioning forest bioeconomy value chains and appliance of Sustainable Forest Management practices.
4. Production of duplicate data collection methods on the EU level should be avoided. Instead, the focus should be placed on ensuring the compatibility already existing, locally, regionally and nationally collected diverse monitoring data across the EU. Existing agreements with international organizations like FAO, UNECE, and Forest Europe are very valuable and to be respected.
5. National Forest Inventories (NFIs) are particularly valuable since they permit comparison with existing long time series of data, that are crucial to the forest sector, due to the long term of responses.
6. Ground-based observations are necessary. Reliable information on forests, which can form the basis for forest management decisions, cannot be solely obtained by remote sensing using satellite data. Decisions on forest plans and forest management must be made based on a combination of ground-based data and remote sensing.
7. The cost of collecting, processing, cross-checking, and disseminating forest information might be very relevant and there should be an agreement on the distribution of costs. The bureaucratic costs should be minimized to avoid extra burden to forest owners and administrators. A comprehensive impact assessment is needed.
8. Regions must participate actively in the design and implementation of a new European Forest Monitoring System.
9. We should learn from the experience of FADN and try to coordinate the Farm Sustainability Data Network with the new Eu Forest Monitoring System, since many forests are actively managed as part of agricultural farms. We want to promote agroforestry systems and sustainable forest management as an important component of livelihood for farmers.
10. In addition to incorporating the biodiversity and climate aspects to long-term planning, the national and regional forests strategic plans should provide secure (investment) conditions for forest holders, to guarantee economic and social sustainability.

Regions' positioning on the new EU framework for Forest  
Monitoring and Strategic Plans

Promoted by European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture,  
Food and Forestry - European Network of Forested Regions



*On behalf of:*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Agriculture, Free-State of Thuringia, Germany*

*Region of Castilla y León, Spain*

*Region of North Karelia, Finland*

*Region of South Karelia, Finland*

*Region of South Savonia, Finland*

*Region of North Savonia, Finland*

*Lapland, Finland*

*Region Halland, Sweden*

*Region Kalmar län, Sweden*

*Region Kronoberg, Sweden*

*Region Jönköpings län, Sweden*

*Region Blekinge, Sweden*

*Bavaria region, Germany*

*La Rioja, Spain*

*Islas Baleares, Spain*

*Andalucía, Spain*

*[Include others]*