Competitiveness and Sustainability: the need for policy integration

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Previous speeches

- Competitiveness
- Forest Action Plan
- Energy
- Paper recycling
- Communication on Innovative and Sustainable Forest-based Industries in the EU
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Framework


Communication on “Innovative and Sustainable F-BI”

- Envisaged for the first quarter 2007
- It will look at the situation of the EU forest-based and related industries, the new challenges that these industries are facing and will propose actions to overcome the challenges.
- Before, public consultation to collect the comments, views and suggestions of all relevant stakeholders
- Deadline for comments just concluded (27/11/2006)
Preliminary results of the consultation

- The proposal is welcomed
- Need for a proactive and focused approach
- Raw material and energy identified as the key challenges
- Important to stress the role of the sector in rural development
- Link to the Forest Action Plan

Forest-based and related industries in the EU

- 8% of the total value-added in the manufacturing industries
- 9% of the employment in the manufacturing industries
- 3 million employees
- More than 330,000 companies
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New Challenges for the EU Forest-based Industries

- Increased Global Competition
- Wood Raw Material
- Secondary Raw Material
- Energy
- Demand for wood and paper products
- Structural Change
- Innovation, Research and Development
- Highlighting the characteristics of F-BI

Overall principles and objectives

- To enhance the competitiveness by taking care of the advanced know-how and competences that the EU forest-based industries possess.
- To recognize the forest-based industries' strategic role in mitigating climate change, enhancing a sustainable energy supply, promoting sustainable forest management and in supporting generally a sustainable development.
- To support an enhanced level of innovation and research and technological development.
- To facilitate the forest-based industries’ access to a sufficient raw material supply, both new fibres and recovered, at reasonable costs.
- To facilitate an energy supply at competitive prices.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions identified</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>➔ 24 possible actions addressed to the Commission, MS, Industries and Forest Owners in the following fields:</td>
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<td>➔ Basic raw material</td>
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<td>➔ Recovered raw material</td>
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<td>➔ Climate change and emission trading</td>
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<td>➔ Environment legislation</td>
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<td>➔ Innovation, research and technical development</td>
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<td>➔ Standardisation</td>
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<td>➔ Trade</td>
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<td>➔ Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable forest-based production and consumption</td>
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<td>➔ Information and Communication</td>
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**Actions identified**

**Basic raw material:**
- Task Force to review the measures to increase the sustainable use of the growing EU forest resources
- Member States and forest-owners federations to foster cooperation between forest owners and enhance education and training in forestry.
- Member States report to the Commission on the development of the supply of raw material to the Forest-based Industries
- Round Table to support the EU FLEGT Action Plan and the establishment of Voluntary Partnership Agreements to prevent illegally harvested timber and products
- Co-operation with neighbouring third countries concerning legal timber
## Actions identified

### Recovered material:
- Follow-up the development of the markets for recovered paper and the further developments of collection systems and report regularly.
- Efficiency in paper making processes based on recovered material attended within the 7th Framework Programme on the basis of the Strategic Research Agenda from the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform.
- Study focusing on practical solutions to improve the collection procedures and increase the interest for recovery among consumers and producers with the aim of increasing the recovery for solid wood products.

### Energy and Environment Legislation
- Member States to assess in their national biomass plans the physical and economic availability of biomass, including wood residues and by-products, in line with the Forest Action Plan and the Biomass Action Plan objectives.
- Management procedures that incorporate active use of forest resources while also applying high standards in maintaining and, when appropriate, enhance biodiversity.
- Assess the cumulative effects of environmental legislation affecting the forest-based industries.
### Actions identified

#### Emissions Trading Directive

- **Overall aim:** To have a cost-effective instrument contributing to fight climate change
- **High Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment:** "emissions trading scheme should be improved to become the main market based mechanism providing incentives for investment in mature low carbon technologies".

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<th>The instrument should</th>
<th>1. give efficient incentives for investment in low carbon technologies</th>
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<td>2. have limited impact on the competitiveness of energy intensive industries competing on global markets</td>
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<td>3. be an attractive “docking station” for schemes in other big emitting countries after 2012</td>
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### Implementation of the Actions

- **First evaluation of the actions in 2009**
- **Final evaluation in 2011.**
- **Collaboration with stakeholders and Member States on the implementation of the actions channelled through the Advisory Committee on Forestry and Forest-based Industry**
- **Coordination with the Standing Forestry Committee on forest related issues.**
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Conclusions

- Important to strengthen the efforts from the forest-based industry to be sustainable and innovative
- As users of a renewable and recyclable raw material, your sector is very well placed
- Communication on “Innovative and Sustainable Forest-based Industries”, good opportunity to put at the forefront of our efforts the need to create a framework in which the forest-based industries can prosper
- We look forward to working with you to realise these ambitions.

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Thank you for your attention!

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/forest_based/index_en.html