EU forest-related policy framework

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Forest-related policy framework

• EU Forestry Strategy
• Forest Action Plan
• A number of Community policies

Community instruments to achieve policy objectives

Rural Development Fund
The Forests Dialogue 26-27 June 2007, Brussels

- European Community established
- No systematic approach

- Forestry Action Programme
- Afforestation
- Cork
- Forest protection

- 1957

- 1989
- Measures to protect forests from atmospheric pollution and fires strengthened
- Forestry measures in agriculture

- 1992

- 1998
- EU Forestry Strategy

- 2006

- EU Forest Action Plan
No “Common EU Forest Policy” (like CAP)


Established a framework for forest-related actions in support of sustainable forest management

Forest policy - competence of the Member States - principle of subsidiarity and concept of shared responsibility
EU Forest Action Plan

• FAP adopted in 2006
• 18 key actions
• For the period 2007-2011

A coherent framework for implementation of forest-related actions and an instrument of coordination between Community actions and the forest policies of the Member States
Primary legislation - Legal base – Treaty

Since 1957 all actions in the area of forests and forestry have been carried out under legal bases relating to other policies, e.g.:

- **Agriculture** / Rural development
- **Environment** / Biodiversity cons.
- **Energy** / Climate change mitigation
- **Internal market** / forest products
Community instruments to achieve policy objectives

- European Agricultural Rural Development Fund (EARDF)
- 7th Research Framework Programme
- Life+
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Intelligent Energy–Europe programme in the Competitiveness and Innovation framework programme
- Community programmes in the field of education
- Solidarity Fund
Rural Development Fund

The main instrument to achieve the rural development objectives in the EU has been the Council Regulation No 1257/1999 - the Rural Development Regulation

New RDR: Council Regulation 1698/2005 (for the period 2007-2013)
Three core objectives (and four axes to implement the objectives):

• **Improving the competitiveness** of the farm and forestry sector through support for restructuring, development and innovation

• **Improving the environment and the countryside** through support for land management

• **Improving the quality of life** in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity
Axis 1: Improving competitiveness

Measures aiming at promoting knowledge and improving human potential:

- Vocational training and information
- Use by farmers and forest holders of advisory services
- Setting up of forestry advisory services (NEW)
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 (NEW)
- Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation agriculture and forestry
Axis 1: Improving competitiveness

New measure introduced to promote innovation:

- Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector
- Between primary producers in agriculture and forestry, the processing industry and/or third parties
Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside

- Afforestation
- Establishing agro-forestry systems
- Natura 2000 payments
- Forest-environment payments
- Restoring forestry production potential and introducing prevention actions
- Support for non-productive investments (amenity values)
Axis 3: Diversification, quality of life

- Diversification of the rural economy
- Improvement of the quality of life
- Training and capacity building

Axis 4: Leader

Implementation of local development strategies through a Leader approach to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of one or several of the three other axes
Thank you for your attention