

EU forest-related policy framework

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This presentation addresses three main issues.

- First, the overall EU forest-related policy framework is presented, indicating that forest policy in the European Union is under the competence of the Member States, based on the principle of subsidiarity and concept of shared responsibility. The Council Resolution on a Forestry Strategy for the European Union (1998) established a framework for forest-related actions in support of sustainable forest management. The recently adopted EU Forest Action Plan (2006) has taken a coherent approach to implementation of forest-related actions and serves as an instrument of coordination between Community actions and the forest policies of the Member States. A number of Community policies also have a direct influence on forest-related activities in the EU.
- Secondly, instruments under the Community policies having a direct influence on forest-related activities are presented.
- Finally, special attention is given to the Rural Development Regulation, which is the main Community instrument in enhancing forest sector development in the European Union.