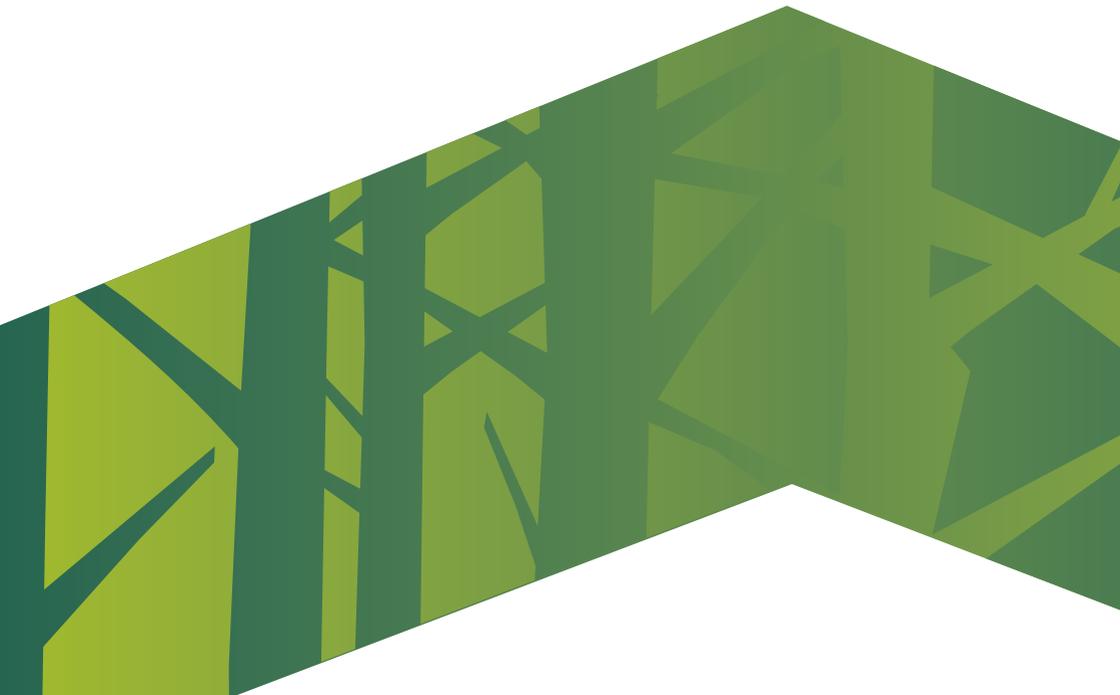




EUROPEAN FORESTRY HOUSE

Centre of Competence
for Forestry Issues





EUROPEAN FORESTRY HOUSE

The European Forestry House (EFH) was founded in Brussels, Belgium, in March 2007 by the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) and the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF). It is situated on the Place du Luxembourg, opposite the European Parliament, in the heart of the EU quarter.

EFH is recognised as the centre of European forest competence and expertise in forest-related issues in Brussels, providing a venue for forest-related events and a hub for European forest and wood experts. It serves as a platform to represent a variety of different types of forest ownership, to promote sustainable forest management as well as the economic viability of the forest sector,

forest and wood research and innovation, and the use of wood for multiple purposes. The organisations which have their offices at EFH are all directly related to forestry and the forest-based sector. Together they create synergies and promote the exchange of relevant ideas and information.

Not only do the residents of the house represent European forests – the house itself also plays its part! The interior of the 200-year-old neoclassical building has been entirely restored, conserving its original wooden floors, staircases and doors. The offices are equipped with furniture made of solid European wood, with each room showcasing a different wood species, ranging from French walnut to Scandinavian birch.

The European Forestry House Organisations



European State Forest Association represents State Forest Management Organisations (SFMOs) throughout 20 European countries. The hands-on experience and wide-ranging expertise of EUSTAFOR's members enable extensive collaboration at a European level, creating the best possible framework conditions for sustainable forest management, promoting the sustainable production of wood, while offering socially beneficial and ecologically valuable services. www.eustafor.eu



Confederation of European Private Forest Owners is the umbrella organisation of Europe's private forest owners, representing private and family forestry throughout Europe by promoting the values of sustainable forest management, private property ownership and the economic viability of the forest holding. Approximately 60% of Europe's forests are privately owned. www.cepf-eu.org

Forest-based Sector

Technology Platform



Forest-based Sector Technology Platform

represents each of the forest value chains: wood-working, forestry and pulp & paper. It facilitates targeted investments in research, development and innovation and stimulates coordination of European and national research and innovation agendas. www.forestplatform.org



European Forest Institute is an international organisation, established by European States. It conducts research and provides policy support on issues related to forests. EFI facilitates forest-related networking and promotes the dissemination of unbiased and policy-relevant information on forests and forestry. EFI also advocates for forest research and for the use of scientifically sound information as a basis for forest policies. www.efi.int

EFI hosts the **EU FLEGT and EU REDD facilities**, which support EU forest governance policy implementation based on the EU FLEGT Action Plan and REDD+ and in partnership with developing countries. www.efi.int



InnovaWood is a European umbrella organisation that offers an effective research and innovation support platform to the forest, wood-based and furniture sectors. Its members are organisations active in the areas of research, education & training and technology transfer in the forest-based sector. The InnovaWood network represents more than 60 research entities from 24 countries. www.innovawood.com

Supporting organisations



The European Forest Sector

Europe's forests

Forests and woodland cover 42% (178 million hectares) of the European Union's land surface. Of this, 75% is used primarily to harvest wood and non-wood products. Only 63% of the annual wood growth is harvested, which means that Europe's forests are growing and are sustainably managed.

Forest ownership

Diversified forest ownership ensures variety in forest management, enriching Europe's forests. Over 60% of the forests in the EU is owned by families and individual landowners. Most of the private properties are small-scale. The rest is public, of which the biggest owner is the state. Furthermore, ownership patterns vary greatly between EU member states. Private ownership is highest in Portugal (98%) and public ownership is highest in Bulgaria (88%).

Sustainable forest management

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a dynamic concept whose parameters include not only the technical aspects of forest management but also administrative, legal, economic, social and environmental components. SFM aims to ensure that forests provide society – now and in the future – with multifold goods and services. This includes not only the sustained production of wood as an important renewable raw material, but all the other various non-wood goods and ecosystem services. SFM requires deliberate human intervention in order to safeguard the durability of vital and healthy forest ecosystems. Europe's forest owners and managers invest considerable resources in SFM. Such investments are only possible if the forest sector remains economically viable.

Benefits of forests

Forests provide multiple products and services:

- Forests are home to many species, helping to preserve biodiversity and micro-climates favourable to rare species
- Forests produce renewable raw material for the construction of buildings and furniture and for use in the pulp and paper industries
- Forests represent a significant reserve of biomass for renewable energy
- Forests act as a natural filter, helping to ensure the supply of clean drinking water
- Forests protect us against natural hazards such as floods, erosion, landslides, avalanches and noise
- Forests provide a variety of non-wood products such as game, berries, mushrooms, herbs, resin, natural medicines, and the raw material for cosmetics and textiles
- Forests provide ideal settings for outdoor recreation

The forest and forest-based sector form an important part of Europe's economy

Businesses working with forests and wood – most of which are small and medium-sized enterprises – are often located in more remote rural areas where they contribute greatly to the local economy, employment and infrastructure.

In all, Europe's forest-based sector:

- Employs 3–4 million people in 344,000 businesses
- Accounts for around 8% of Europe's total manufacturing added value
- Delivers goods with a total value of 500 billion EUR
- Produces half of the EU's renewable energy



Forests preserve biodiversity

European forests are essential for the conservation of Europe's biodiversity. They represent around half of the area designated as Natura 2000 sites which cover approximately 23% of the total forestland in Europe. Forests protected under Natura 2000 include various types of semi-natural habitats. Most of them are characterised by a long history of forest management.

Forests and wood products protect our climate

Forests are effective carbon sinks and vital for combatting climate change and, along with wood, can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂):

- Growing forests absorb CO₂
- Wood-based products store carbon
- Wood and wood-based products can replace other materials which have unfavourable climate impacts

One cubic metre of wood absorbs 1 tonne of CO₂. Europe's forests grow around 770 million cubic metres per year, thus absorbing 770 million tonnes of CO₂ every year. This amount could offset around 10% of the EU's total annual CO₂ emissions.





We rent our meeting room to forest-related organisations!

Meeting room facilities

- A modern, elegant meeting room which comfortably seats up to 20 people.
- Wi-fi connection, beamer, flip-chart, air-conditioning.
- Coffee, tea and water. Possibility of catering for cold lunches.
- Situated close to the European Parliament building, easily accessible by train, metro and airport bus.

How to reach us

- Train: Luxembourg Station
- Airport Bus: 12 or 21
- Metro: Trône or Maalbeek

How to contact us

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