

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2023/0413(COD) Awaiting committee decision
Monitoring framework for resilient European forests	
Subject 3.10.11 Forestry policy	

Key players				
European Parliament	Joint Committee Responsible ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Agriculture and Rural Development	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	AGRI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Agriculture and Rural Development			
	Committee for opinion ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	Former committee for opinion ITRE Industry, Research and Energy (Associated committee)			
	Council of the European Union			
	European Commission Commission DG Environment	Commissioner SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus		
European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions				

Key events			
22/11/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0728	Summary
26/02/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
26/02/2024	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
26/02/2024	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/0413(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 59; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting committee decision
Committee dossier	CJ14/10/00275

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2023)0728	22/11/2023	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2023)0384	22/11/2023	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2023)0372	22/11/2023	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2023)0373	22/11/2023	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2023)0374	22/11/2023	EC	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES2733/2023	20/03/2024	ESC	

Monitoring framework for resilient European forests

PURPOSE: to set up an EU forest monitoring framework for the collection of forest data.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: EU forests and other wooded land are increasingly stressed by climate change and unsustainable direct or indirect human use and activity, and related land use changes. Hazards like wildfires, pest outbreaks, droughts, and heatwaves, often reinforcing each other, are likely to lead to more frequent and intense catastrophic events, often beyond national borders. These pressures undermine forest resilience and pose a threat to the capacity of forests to fulfil their various environmental, social and economic functions. Some hazards, for example wildfires, also pose a direct threat to human health and safety.

Current monitoring tools are not fully fit for purpose. Services such as the Copernicus-driven European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and the Forest High Resolution Layer of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service have brought about some degree of standardised remote sensing-based monitoring and data in the EU.

Overall, information about the status of forests in the EU, their ecological, social and economic value, the pressures they face and ecosystem services they provide, is fragmented and patchy, largely heterogeneous and inconsistent, with data gaps and overlaps, and data is provided with significant delay and often only on a voluntary basis. Although there are existing reporting processes, the EU lacks a common system for the consistent collection and sharing of accurate and comparable forest data.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes this draft Regulation which aims to put in place a comprehensive, high-quality monitoring system that ensures standardised or harmonised data and covers all forests and other wooded land. It will build on existing data sets, good practices of Member States and the technological advancement of remote sensing as well the EU capacity to provide these services.

Specifically, the forest monitoring initiative will create:

A forest monitoring framework which includes rules to:

- ensure timeliness, accuracy, consistency, transparency, comparability and completeness of forest data within the Union and their public accessibility;
- support the voluntary development of integrated long-term plans at the level of the Member States through an evidence-based, inclusive, cross-sectoral and adaptive approach;
- set up a strengthened governance between the Commission and the Member States.

A forest monitoring system

The Commission will set up, in cooperation with the Member States, and operate a forest monitoring system comprising the following elements:

- a geographically explicit identification system for the mapping and localisation of forest units;
- a forest data collection framework combining: (i) standardised data, for which the Commission will take the lead role and provide a cost-effective service primarily from Earth observation (Copernicus); (ii) harmonised data, largely from National Forest Inventories, that is comparable across Europe;
- a forest data sharing framework. The forest monitoring system will consist of electronic databases and geographic information systems and will enable the exchange and integration of forest data with other electronic databases and geographic information systems.

The monitoring system will ensure the regular and systematic collection of:

- forest data on the basis of aerial or space-borne ortho-imagery, by Copernicus Sentinel satellites or other equivalent systems;
- in situ data through a network of monitoring sites.

Transparency				
BERNHUBER Alexander	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2024	Swedish Forest Industries Federation
POJDROVÁ Michaela	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	22/02/2024	Director General, Natural Resources Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
BERNHUBER Alexander	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/02/2024	Finland PermRep
	Member	22/07/2024	Verdens Skove	
BERNHUBER Alexander	Member	07/02/2024	CEPF	
SARVAMAA Petri	Member	16/01/2024	Metsä Group	
TORVALDS Nils	Member	05/12/2023	Swedish Forest Industries Federation	
TORVALDS Nils	Member	05/12/2023	The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)	
LINS Norbert	Member	08/11/2023	Deutscher Forstwirtschaftsrat	