

Resolution by the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork

Recognise the role of forestry in the future Common Agricultural Policy

Europe's forests, the forest sector and forest-based products, including timber and non-timber as well as ecosystem services, have an important role to play to ensure sustainable and viable rural areas in Europe.

The Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Forestry and Cork, representing a wide range of stakeholders, from producers, managers, workers, contractors, industries and environmental groups, emphasizes the importance to recognise the contribution of the forestry sector in the context of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

This future policy must take into consideration the multifunctionality of European forests and its role to create and ensure jobs and growth in rural areas and sustainable use of the natural resources. The future policy must enable the forest sector to activate its full potential in mitigating climate change and enhancing biodiversity whilst also contributing diversely to socio-economic well-being. However, to support the multifunctional role of forests and to ensure sustainable forest management, a competitive and economically viable forest sector is a must. This needs to be properly recognized in the future CAP.

In order to take the importance of the forestry sector into account, the CDG on Forestry and Cork calls for a future CAP that aims to recognise the three pillars of sustainable management and therewith a sustainable development of rural areas by providing support of forestry measures on investments, training, advisory services, innovation, environment and climate. This should be backed by sufficient financial support allocated to the forestry sector by the MS and regions, including for ecosystem services.

In the past, forestry measures of the Rural Development Policy have been the area in which Member States have at times not used available funds from rural development. The future policy should include effective mechanisms to ensure Member States activate these available funds for forestry measures. Uncertain payment conditions and high bureaucracy are factors that have hampered the uptake of funds in the past and which needs to be addressed.