



Brussels,  
MS-mfg-agri.b.2(2022)707686

## MINUTES

### *Meeting of the CDG Forestry and Cork*

**14 January 2022**

Chair: AGRID.4 (Mauro Poinelli)

Delegations present: All member organisations were present, except Stichting BirdLife Europe (BirdLife Europe) and WWF European Policy Programme (WWF EPO).

#### **1. Approval of the agenda**

The draft agenda as previously distributed was approved.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public.

#### **3. List of points discussed**

##### **3.1 Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**

###### *3.1.a Protected areas targets guidance note*

COM (DG ENV) presented a PPT presentation, available on CIRCABC. In response to the questions from members, COM gave the following replies:

- The targets were set at EU level, they are not mandatory for member states, but COM expects that all member states will contribute to them;
- Work on the definition and mapping of primary and old-growth forests is currently being done in the working group Forests and Nature;
- The selection of protected areas will have to be based on scientific knowledge, and will have to be clearly explained by the member states;
- There is no estimation at EU level of the financial consequences for fulfilling the targets, it will be up to the member states to consider how to approach and finance the targets

- COM has strived to take into account the position of all stakeholders in a balanced way;
- Member states will decide on the specific needs for the management of their protected areas, taking into account the existing legal obligations for what concerns Natura 2000 areas.

### *3.1.b Status improvement targets guidance note*

COM (DG ENV) presented a PPT presentation, available on CIRCABC.

In response to the questions from the floor, COM gave the following replies:

- With regard to the methodology, the target is primarily focused on improving the *trends* of species and habitats; there is only a limited focus on conservation status.
- Climate change is not yet perceived as a prevailing pressure on species and habitats, but may become so in the future. It is up to the member states to indicate whether and how climate change should be considered in setting their targets.
- COM is aware that the population recovery of certain protected species can cause a negative trend for other species. Member States might suggest specific actions in such cases.
- Evidence from successful species and habitat restoration projects (for example LIFE projects) shows that the proposed targets are realistic.
- In addition to this voluntary target, COM will present a proposal for legally binding restoration targets in March 2022.

### **3.2 Proposal for a Regulation on the making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/201**

COM (DG ENV) presented a PPT presentation, available on CIRCABC.

In response to the questions from the floor, COM gave the following replies:

- The definition of forest degradation stems partly from FAO, and partly from the amendment to the Renewable Energy Directive with a view to making it coherent with all pieces of EU legislation;
- Benchmarking of trading partners will be done via an Implementing Act;
- With regard to the impact of the proposal on employment in forestry and on local population, COM referred to the published Impact Assessment.

### **3.3 EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Governance**

COM (DG AGRI) explained that the set-up of CDGs in DG AGRI is tailored to the CAP, and therefore, following the CAP transitional regulation (until the end of 2022), the current set-up of CDGs had been extended until the end of 2022 with one exception: CDG are now chaired by COM.

COM also explained that the new EU Forest Strategy commits COM to create one new group with revised mission statement, broader membership and focusing on the new EU Forest Strategy, building on the experience of the CDG Forestry and Cork, and the working group Forests and Nature. This is work in progress and the CDG will be kept informed about the developments.

Reacting to some remarks, COM explained that both groups will be merged with a view to have all interests of *all* stakeholders represented around one table. However the work was ongoing and therefore no further practical details could be provided at this moment.

### **3.4 Sustainable Finance (Forestry and Biodiversity) – State of play**

COM (DG AGRI) presented a PPT presentation, available on CIRCABC.

Responding to the questions from the floor, COM gave the following replies: Forest owners will not be obliged to follow the Sustainable Finance criteria;

- The Platform is currently working on the criteria for biodiversity; therefore COM does not comment on this at this stage;
- Large forest companies have the obligation to report on their activities anyhow, while private forest owners have no obligation to report;
- With regard to public financing, there are no sustainable finance requirements in the Regulation on CAP funds;
- There is no taxonomy alignment needed with regard to state aid;
- COM has no intention to expand taxonomy rules to other policies.

### **3.5 Bioeconomy Strategy – Bioeconomy Progress Report**

COM (DG RTD) presented a PPT presentation, available on CIRCABC.

Reacting to some comments/questions from the floor, COM stated that the bioeconomy strategy does not prescribe any targets, and that it is possible to substitute fossil by biological while respecting biodiversity goals, but that research has to follow up.

### **3.6 EU Soil Strategy for 2030**

COM (DG ENV) presented a PPT presentation available on CIRCABC. Due to time constraints, there were no questions from the floor.

### **Any Other Business**

The CEPI representative asked that the CDG should be given the possibility to provide more input in policy development, in particular *before* decisions are taken by the Commission. He also asked about the number of CDG meetings foreseen in 2022.

COM responded that two meetings per year are foreseen, and that in the future also a number of joint meetings with the future SFC are foreseen.

## **4. Next meeting**

The date of next meeting will be communicated as soon as available.

### **List of participants (Annexed)**

Gaëlle MARION  
Head of Unit

List of participants– Minutes  
**Meeting of the CDG Forestry and Cork**  
**14 January 2022**

| ORGANISATION   | NUMBER OF PERSONS |
|--|-------------------|
| Confédération Européenne des Entrepreneurs de Travaux Techniques Agricoles, Ruraux et Forestiers/ European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETAR) | 1                 |
| Confédération Européenne des Propriétaires Forestiers (CEPF)   | 9                 |
| Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)  | 2                 |
| European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)  | 5                 |
| European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)   | 3                 |
| European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois)  | 2                 |
| European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)   | 2                 |
| European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)   | 3                 |
| European Environmental Bureau (EEB)  | 3                 |
| European farmers (COPA)  | 6                 |
| European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)  | 3                 |
| European Landowners' Organization asbl (ELO asbl)  | 4                 |
| European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)   | 2                 |
| Federation Europeenne des Communes Forestieres (FECOF)   | 1                 |
| IFOAM Organics Europ   | 1                 |
| UNION DE SELVICULTORES DEL SUR DE EUROPA, AEIE (USSE)  | 3                 |
| Union of European Foresters (UEF)  | 1                 |