

Forests in the EU - seeing the forest behind the trees

Background

The EU Forest Strategy for 2030 sets a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. There are a few key legislative tools which are key for improving the status of our forests, but require additional negotiations. This conference aims at providing scientifically sound arguments and civil society inputs into the negotiation process.

Venue: Institute of World Economics, HUN-REN CERS, (Budapest, 4. Tóth Kálmán street, 1097)

<https://vgi.krtk.hu/en/>

Link to the venue: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gm4hXFPbskVnekP77>

Date: 3-4 October 2024

Support: József Bognár Foundation, Institute of World Economics

Day 1 - Getting to know our forests - VALUES - THREATS - TOOLS

8:30 Registration

9:00 Introduction to the policy scene

- EU policies impacting our forests
Marco Onida, European Commission DG Environment, head of forest unit (online)

Session 1 - Old-Growth forests in Europe

- Remote primary forest project
Martin Mikolas, Czech University of Life Sciences
- Old-growth forests in accession countries based on Wild-card project
Renzo Motta, University of Turin
- Taking a joint strategy for wilderness protection and old-growth forest further in Europe
Zoltan Kun, Forest Defenders Alliance / Wild Europe Foundation

Q&A

10:40 Coffee break

DEMOCRACY - SOLIDARITY - GREEN TRANSITION

This event is part of the Civil EU Presidency initiative, which aims to amplify the voice of science and civil society organisations during the Hungarian EU Presidency

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11:00 Session 2 - Threats to our forests with focus on the renewable energy directive

- The role of forest biomass in our energy mix
Gabriella Szajkó, Regional Energy Research Centre (REKK)
- Can forest biomass burning be renewable? - the case of the Hungarian biomass power plants
Ádám Harmat, WWF Hungary
- How to strengthen the Renewable Energy Directive - from ideas to implementation
Mary Booth, Partnership for Policy Integrity

Q&A

12:30 lunch break

14:00 Session 3 - the law as our tool to protect forests

- The review of forest related EU legislation
Michael Rice, Client Earth
- Mobilizing EU legislation to protect our forest nationally
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- Forest management planning and citizens' rights
Marta Jagusztyn, Lasy i Obywatele

Q&A

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 What needs to change to improve our forests
Interactive podium talk moderated by **Karl Wagner**

Day 2 - improving forest policies - THE FUTURE OF EUROPE'S FOREST

9:00 Session 4: EU Forest Monitoring Law

- Introducing the key forest monitoring recommendations of the Bottoms-up project
Dr. Péter Ódor, HUN-REN Ecological Research Centre
- Forest monitoring case study from Sweden
Lina Burnelius, Protect the Forest
- The EU Forest Monitoring Law as a key policy instrument to improve our knowledge about forests
Augustyn Mikos, Pracownia

Q&A

10:30 Coffee break

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11:00 Session 5 - Forest Degradation and NRL

- Opportunities and challenges in monitoring forest degradation
Pieter Beck, EU Joint Research Centre (online)
- What the Global Forest Watch tells about the EU forests
Sarah Carter, World Resources Institute
- The status of forest naturalness in Hungary
László Gálhidy, WWF Hungary

Q&A

12:30 lunch

14:00 Session 6 - Forests as nature-based solution

- Improving the state of forests as a response to the intertwined biodiversity and climate crisis
Stefan Kreft, Naturwald Akademie
- Defining and valuing forest ecosystem services
Peter Elsasser, Thünen Institute
- What role payments for ecosystem services can play to improve the state of our forests
Toby Aykroyd, Wild Europe Foundation

Q&A

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Imagining the future of Europe's forests

Interactive podium talk moderated by **Karl Wagner**

17:15 Closing the conference - concluding remarks

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