



LULUCF: Practical consequences for the forest-based sector

*Joint CEPF, CEPI, EOS and EUSTAFOR workshop
on the practical consequences of the introduction of the Regulation for the
inclusion of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) within the 2030 EU
Climate and Energy framework*

Tuscany Region Brussels Office
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Moderator's conclusions

The workshop aimed at assessing the possible implications of the recently adopted LULUCF regulation, taking into consideration both the implementation process by Member States and the current trend of the EU forest-based sector in general.

The presentations given during the workshop were practical and full of content, providing the audience with high quality food for thought. As recalled during the discussion, the text of the adopted LULUCF Regulation is the result of a political negotiation. The audience perceived that the regulation favors the conservation value of forest carbon stock over the value of the use of wood-based materials and the related substitution effect. As the substitution effect of timber as an alternative raw material can be significant over time, a rational approach is needed.

The crucial point in the effective implementation of the LULUCF Regulation is - *without doubt*- the elaboration of national forest action plans (NFAPs), including the definition of forest reference levels (FRLs). In this respect, a [technical guidance document](#) has been prepared by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) for DG Climate Action, in order to support EU Member States in complying with the LULUCF Regulation. While the guidance is not binding for the Member States, it seeks to help them to interpret the LULUCF Regulation and provides examples of possible technical approaches for preparing the FRLs and NFAPs.

It is equally important to remember that, during the year 2019, the European Commission, assisted by experts appointed by Member States, will make a technical assessment of the NFAPs. This leaves the possibility for Member States to provide their recommendations. Stakeholders might also give their contribution and share their expertise in order to achieve the best outcome from this exercise.



The European Commission has largely acknowledged that the use and management of forest resources vary greatly across Europe. For this reason Member States can use credits flexibly within the effort-sharing sectors in the period 2020-2030. At the same time, governments are requested to provide transparent, accurate, reliable and comparable data to ensure that emissions and removals are not double-counted. The accounts include changes in carbon stocks of above-ground and below-ground biomass, litter, dead wood, soil organic carbon and harvested wood products (HWPs).

The Commission pointed out that the projected FRLs are based on the continuation of the forest management practices of 2000-2009. However, the audience expressed concerns about forest aging. Statistics prove that in almost all European countries the current decade's harvest levels are well below the expected ones. In order to continue practicing forestry in a sustainable manner, e.g. to not deviate from the optimal age class distribution, the inevitable differences in the state of forests between the past reference period (2000-2009) and the commitment period (2021-2030) must be taken into account by the Member States when setting up FRLs for LULUCF accounting periods.

The moderator, together with CEPF, CEPI, EOS and EUSTAFOR, would like to thank the speakers and the participants for their essential contribution to the LULUCF workshop. We are grateful for the time and effort they took to share their expertise and opinions on this topic.

A special thanks to the EU Representation of the Tuscany Region, in Brussels, who kindly hosted our event.