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Forest-based Bioeconomy and the Green Deal

Lauri Hetemäki

Assistant Director
European Forest Institute

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EU Green Deal is welcome and necessary, but needs updating to be stronger



This presentation reflects my interpretations of the scientists synthesis studies published under the EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support in the past 5 years (see references in the last slide)

How Green Deal sees forest bioeconomy?

- It hardly sees it. No reference to EU Bioeconomy Strategy 2018
- Forests are seen in a rather narrow perspective: sink and biodiversity
- Very few statements on the multiple benefits forests provide to society
- EU forest-based sector can do much more for reaching the Green Deal climate, biodiversity, economic and social objectives than the proposal now indicates
- The Post-COVID19 recovery enhances the above point

Narrow, few options



Wide, many options



EU forest-based sector climate mitigation impacts

CATEGORY	IMPACT CHANNEL
Biophysical	Forest carbon sequestration to trees and soil (<i>forest sink</i>)
	Forest albedo
	Forest aerosols
	Forest disturbances
Substitution	Forest-based raw materials and products substituting for fossil raw materials, energy and material products
Storage	Storing carbon in forest products
Environmental, socio-economic and political	Synergies and trade-offs between the mitigation impact and other impacts and societal objectives: <i>e.g., biodiversity impact, carbon leakages impact, income and employment impact, societal & political support or resistance for mitigation measures</i>
Production and logistics	Emissions from forest products value-chain

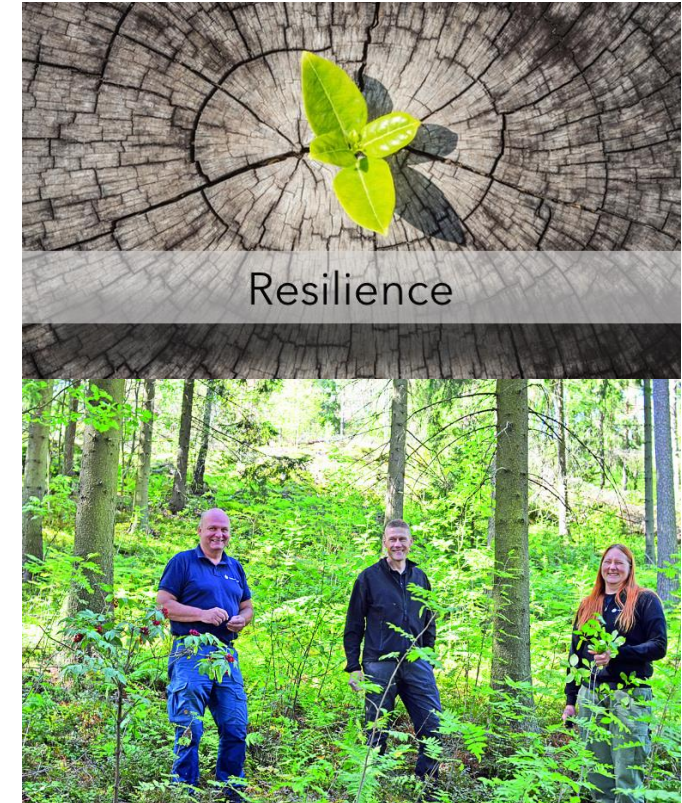
Green Deal proposal's focus is mainly in this

The net mitigation impact will be combined impact of all these categories

Green Deal should address more holistically different mitigation channels

Biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation are married

- Keeping forest sinks, controlling disturbance risks and adapting forests to changing climate requires forest management (e.g. monoculture to mixed species forests)
- *One-size-fits-all* policy is not optimal. To what extent does the central requirement of GD for reforestation and afforestation make sense in different Member States (e.g. in Spain)?
- How are adaptation, resilience and forest management funded in coming years – taxpayers? *Unrealistic!*
- Forest owners and industry need incentives & income, and therefore also bioeconomy

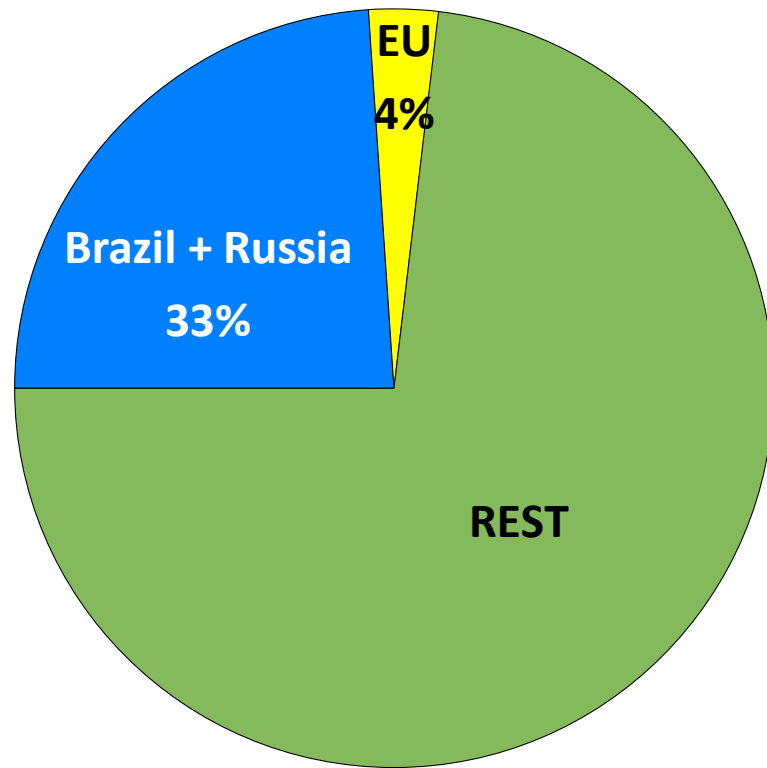


What is the relative role of the EU forest-based sector in the global setting?

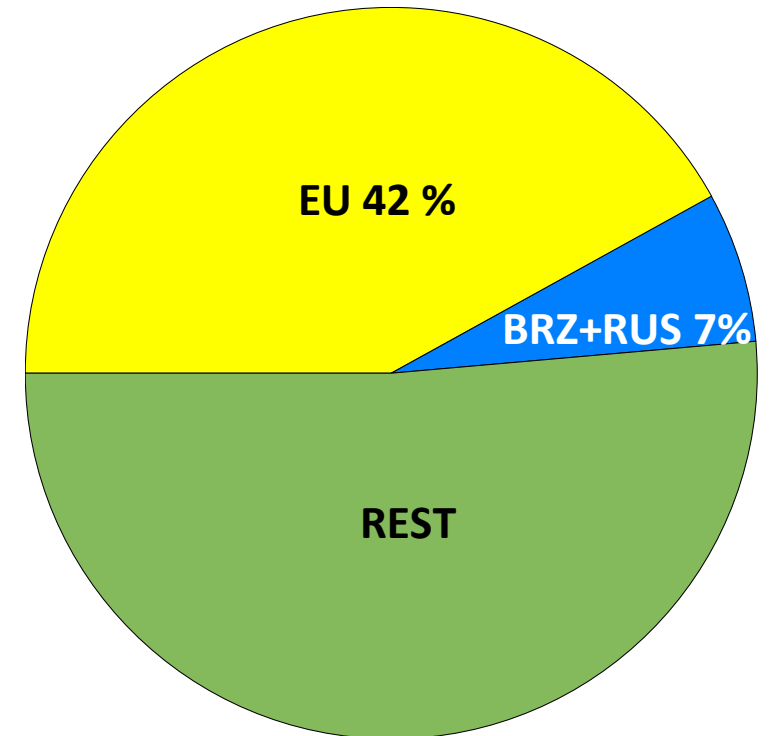


EU is not a huge forested region, but it is a huge forest products producer

EU28's share of total world forest area in 2015 was 4%



EU28's share of world total value of forest exports in 2015 was 42% = 110 billion USD



EU has major opportunities to shape sustainable consumption and production

Lack of forest bioeconomy does not make forests more resilient, could be the contrary

Priority missions for the EU:

1: Carbon neutrality & SDGs; 2: COVID19 Recovery

These require:

1. Strategy that helps to reach these priorities simultaneously. Post-COVID19 recovery is *“once-in-a-life-time chance”* to do this
 2. Phasing-out fossils in energy and material sectors is a must
 3. Cut down unnecessary consumption and increase resource efficiency and resource recovery (circularity)
 4. Invest in new employment and income opportunities
- Sustainable circular bioeconomy is a necessary part of achieving 1.-4. We have no realistic alternative option, at least in the coming decades

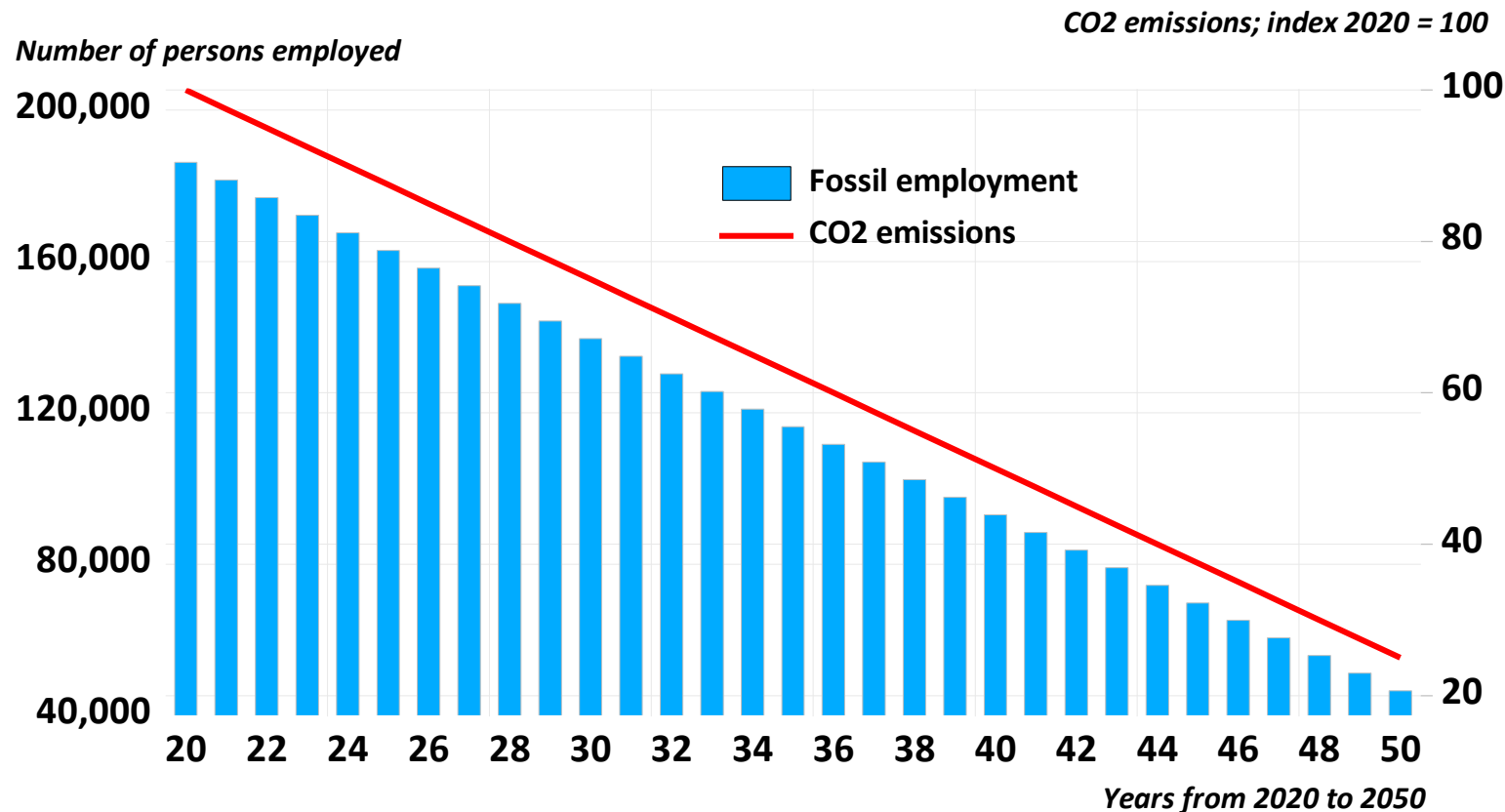


LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT



How to solve employment equation when moving to carbon neutrality?

Hypothetical example of employment impacts when phasing-out fossil sector in the EU

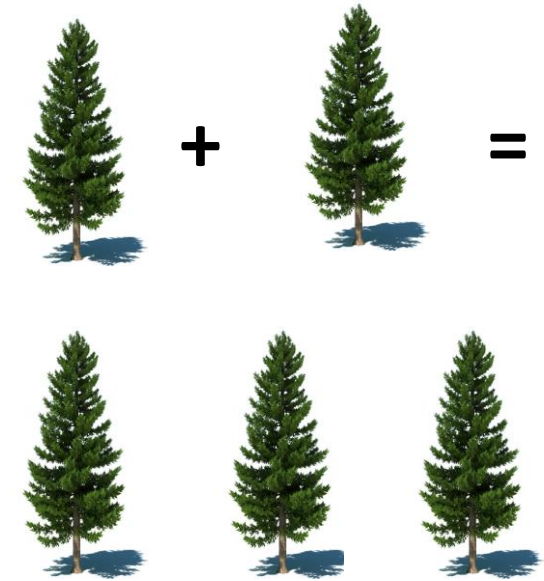


Source of Employment data for 2018: EUROSTAT

- Illustrative example of one possible projection of CO₂ emissions and number of persons employed in EU27 coal, crude oil, gas and petroleum manufacturing in 2020-2050
- 140 000 lost jobs from 2020 to 2050
- Need to create new jobs in other more sustainable sectors, such as circular bioeconomy

Green Deal should address synergies and trade-offs

- Demands for forest use can have trade-offs, but also synergies
- Biodiversity is prerequisite for sustainable and resilient bioeconomy
- But sustainable bioeconomy is also needed to protect biodiversity
- Bioeconomy is needed to replace fossils and mitigate climate change – biodiversity's main threat
- Management measures can simultaneously benefit biodiversity and bioeconomy, e.g., planting mixed forests and addressing disturbances
- Bioeconomy generates income for forest owners and forest industry that allows investment in biodiversity and natural capital



Key Messages:



1. Green Deal goals on climate neutrality and resource efficiency cannot be met without a new range of biobased solutions: bioeconomy is a missing link to achieve that
2. EU forest-based sector can do much more in creating synergies to address holistically climate, biodiversity, economic and social objectives than Green Deal proposal now indicates
3. Circular bioeconomy is essential for post-COVID19 recovery strategy: it helps to combine carbon neutrality + employment and income needs

Thank you!



Erkki Oksanen, Luke

Lauri Hetemäki
lauri.hetemaki@efi.int

FORBIO project on Twitter
[@FORBIOproject](https://twitter.com/FORBIOproject)

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