

FORESTRY

Representing the interests of land and forest owners, ELO promotes maintaining the productive capacity of forests while preserving their biological diversity. Enhancing the **multifunctionality** of forests to ensure their various functions is therefore a priority for ELO and this can be done most effectively through supporting the entrepreneurial activities of landowners who invest in forest resources. Due to **sustainable forest management (SFM)** forestry maintains and enhances environmental amenities and ecological values, protects soil and water resources and mitigates against the effects of **climate change**. Forest biomass from SFM can help reach the renewable energy targets.



ELO is deeply involved in the international, pan-European, EU and national processes which promote SFM with regard to private land and forest owners, and acts as a facilitator between stakeholders and relevant decision makers by recommending policies and actions as well as proposing alternatives:

- ELO has joined, as an observer, the United Nations committees: both the **FAO European Forestry Commission** and the **UNECE Timber Committee**. In collaboration with FAO, ELO emphasises the necessity to secure SFM by safeguarding land and forest tenure.
- ELO participates actively in the **Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)** in order to ensure that private forest owners' interests are represented in terms of policy harmonization and development of European strategies.
- ELO supports the concept of **certification** as a means to promote the use of wood from sustainably managed forests, offering fair job possibilities, and to improve its competitiveness on the global market and supports enterprises and businesses that ensure self commitments regarding sound use of wood (based products). ELO believes in the need to protect the European wood market against illegally logged wood and hopes that regions and countries, where forest management and related laws are less developed, will participate in the **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT)**.
- ELO participates in the implementation of the **EU Forest Action Plan (COM(2006) 302 final)** which is a driver to strengthen the contribution of land and forest owners to sustainable forest management. The action plan aims at providing a coherent framework for the implementation of forest-related actions and serves as an instrument of coordination between Community actions and the forest policies of the Member States. ELO works with its European forest network to reach the objectives which are: improving long-term competitiveness, improving and protecting the environment, contributing to quality of life and fostering coordination and communication.

ELO facilitates the integration of **New Members States**, especially through its activities which support the sharing of forest related experiences. Many of the New Member States have restored ownership rights and/or privatised forest land and other forest-related assets, including some previously state-run activities in forest management.

- Since 1992 and the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, ELO has participated in European strategies to **halt the decline of biodiversity** in Europe. ELO works on the all-European implementation of Natura 2000, the EU's unique tool which allows it to follow worldwide biodiversity commitments, specifically with regard to forest habitats. ELO advocates land and forest owners' activities as well as their interests, highlighting for example the questions of Natura 2000 financing, potential changes in profitability (notably in the cork issue) and on-going activities.

ELO is also an expert with regard to the “**Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators for 2010**” (SEBI2010) working groups, on the field activities for biodiversity and rural activities related to forest habitats and the relation between forest biodiversity and climate change, with the objective to develop and implement biodiversity indicators in the forestry, agriculture and fishery sectors, in order to assess, report and communicate the achievement of the 2010 target to halt the biodiversity loss.

The forest area in the EU has been increasing and only 60% of the annual forest growth has been harvested during the last decade. The afforestation and reforestation of land, carried out within the framework of rural development, has evolved with regard to the climate change mitigation as well, which is partly responsible for this expansion. There is an extraordinary sustainable potential which can be used in the **wood energy** field and carbon sequestration in both soil and wood. Therefore ELO actively supports and promotes the development of local wood-energy supply chains; activities which could have positive repercussions in the climate change mitigation, rural economy, ecological stability and soil stabilization.

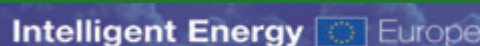


EUROFORENET (www.euroforenet.eu)



is an ELO action supported by the European Commission, Directorate General of the Environment. Its goal is to stimulate and encourage the co-operation between both private and public stakeholders, in order to improve efficiency at a local level in forest-wood-energy supply chains in various Member States of the EU. The main objectives are to propose a set of recommendations, tools and guidelines for both private and public decision makers, in order to promote energy-oriented sustainable forest management, as well as to support the benefits of wood energy in general. EUROFORENET used two tools to achieve these objectives: a communication campaign and a platform of experts who developed a practical guide. It also incorporates scientific tools, such as the one developed by FAO – Forestry Department, Wood Energy “WISDOM” (Woodfuel Integrated Supply / Demand Overview Mapping).

MAKE-IT-BE



is a new ELO project, forming a follow-up of the EUROFORENET initiative and co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme supported by the European Commission, Directorate General for Transport and Energy. Involving partners from Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Belgium and the UK, this high-level project will develop decision making and implementation tools for the delivery of local and regional Bio-energy chains. This 36-month action aims at providing feasible solutions for countryside managers on the ground with a view to help member states implementing their EU renewable energy targets.

ELO is also an observer at **Forest Technological Platform** to enhance research and innovation to forest-based business.

ELO underlines in various ways the raising of the awareness about the risk of **forest fires** across Europe and contributes to forest fires prevention through the support of national, regional and local programmes and actions developed and managed on the initiative of land and forest owners' associations, such as for example in managing woodfuel to prevent fires and habitat management (e.g. Cork). ELO has supported the **Forest Focus** programme which was one of the world's largest bio-monitoring systems concentrating in particular on protecting forests against both air pollution and fires, stressing the impact of these agents for land and forest owners.

As a representative of land and forest owners across the Europe, ELO proclaims to be able to advocate all the above-mentioned attitudes at all levels of decision-making. ELO emphasises the strategic role of land and forest owners in the approval and implementation processes of the international, pan-European, EU and national commitments and legislation. ELO facilitates their active contribution in order to maintain the sustainable development of our forests for the next generations.