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Press Release

Copa and Cogeca welcome a positive vote by the Agri Committee on the future EU Forestry Strategy

Following today's vote in the European Parliament's Agri Committee on the future EU Forestry Strategy, Copa and Cogeca members, representing farmers, forest owners and their cooperatives, show their full support to a proposal able to ensure a long term stability and predictability for the forestry sector. Two key dimensions for a sector on the front line in the face of climate change.

Reacting to the outcome of the vote Pekka Pesonen, Copa and Cogeca Secretary General, underlined that *"Today's vote by the Agri Committee is sending a clear message to the Commission who is working on the future EU Forest strategy and stressing that the Strategy should recognise the importance of the forestry sector for climate, biodiversity and rural areas but also to acknowledge the challenges it is facing. The European forestry sector needs support and predictability to better adapt to climate change and reduce the risks. The future EU Forest strategy should include adequate instruments in this regard and ensure coherence between all relevant policy."*

The future EU forest strategy should also represent the main framework for continuous support in promoting and boosting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) at pan-European and global levels and the multifunctional role of forests. A dimension that has been clearly highlighted by the vote of the Agri Committee and within the work of rapporteur MEP Petri Sarvamaa.

The report also recognises that forest owners play a crucial role in implementing SFM that includes all three pillars of sustainability and that they should be enabled to continue to invest and innovate, including in skills and training and through sharing best practices. Ensuring this will allow the forest sector to better adapt to the new challenges and strengthen the active forest management.

European forest owners fully support resource efficiency and an open market approach. Therefore, we regret that the report promotes the cascade principle, that is a top-down concept which would forcefully promote the use and value of wood in a hierarchical manner.

Copa Cogeca would like to encourage the Commission, and has also asked the European Parliament to further explore and include in the future strategy, mechanisms to incentivize the substitution from fossil to renewable raw materials and promote a local circular bio-based economy which offers climate, biodiversity and ecosystem benefits.

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Translations in DE, ES ,FR, IT, PL will soon be available on the Copa-Cogeca website.

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