 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

 **LUXINNOVATION**
#MakingInnovationHappen



S-WIN
Swiss • Wood • Innovation • Network

 Federal Ministry
Agriculture and Forestry, Climate
and Environmental Protection,
Regions and Water Management
Republic of Austria

Item 4

Study “Taking a bird’s eye view of EU-wood-based policy”



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE

A bird's eye view of EU forest policy and wood in construction

6th Expert Group Meeting of the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP)

2 April, 2025

Filip Aggestam, Forest Policy Research Network



07



Taking a bird's eye view of EU wood-based policy

Untangling policy, institutional, and actor frameworks affecting the wood-based sectors

Authored by:
Filip Aggestam,
Gerhard Weiss,
Jerbelle Elomina,
Helga Püzl

Knowledge to Action 7

Taking a bird's eye view of EU wood-based policy

Untangling policy, institutional, and actor frameworks affecting the wood-base sectors

Link to full report:

<https://doi.org/10.36333/k2a07>

Taking a bird's eye view of EU wood-based policy

Objective


- Provide a general overview of EU forest policy
- Examine how EU policies impact the use of wood in construction
- Highlight challenges, opportunities, and governance frameworks





Why focus on wood?

- Renewable, carbon-sequestering, replaces high-emission materials
- Strategic role in bioeconomy and climate mitigation
- Faces complex policy trade-offs and sustainability goals



THE LAW



Fragmentation in EU forest policy

- No unified EU forest or wood policy
- Subsidiarity principle dominates
- Policies spread across biodiversity, climate, energy, trade, and rural development

EU wood policy *in a nutshell*

- Strategic
- Regulatory
- Economic

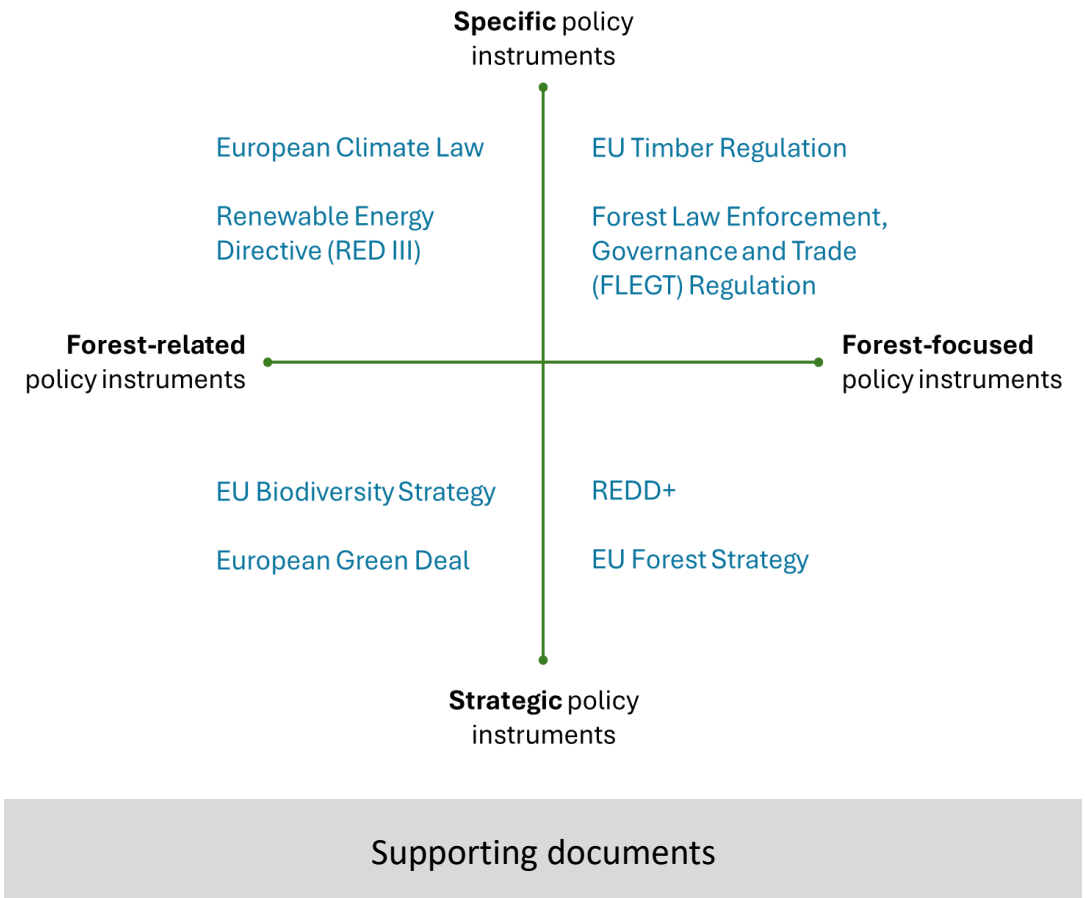


EU wood policy *in a nutshell*

Key institutions and governance actors

- European Commission
- Council of the EU
- European Parliament
- Advisory bodies and expert groups

Tools and strategies for tracking EU forest-related policymaking



Strategic and regulatory frameworks

- EU Forest Strategy 2021: Restoration, SFM, biodiversity
- Biodiversity Strategy 2030
- RED III, Nature Restoration Law, EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)



Economic tools and funding

- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):
Afforestation, forest resilience
- LIFE Programme, Horizon Europe,
InvestEU
- EU Taxonomy and Just Transition Fund



Serves as the overarching framework for sustainable forest management and wood use



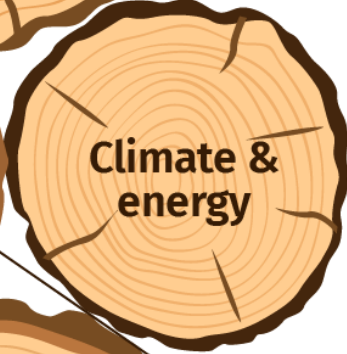
Policies focused on protecting ecosystems directly influence wood harvesting practices



Financial instruments and investments drive sustainable forestry operations and bioeconomy development



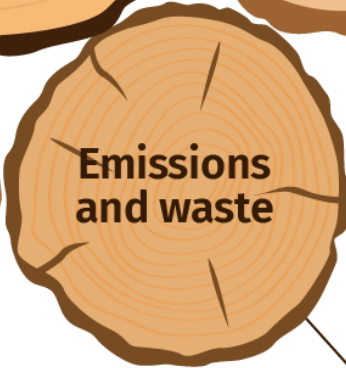
Policies influence workforce training, job creation, and the safety of forestry workers



Policies incentivise the use of wood as a renewable energy source while addressing its carbon footprint



Integrated forest-agriculture landscapes support agroforestry, biomass production, and rural livelihoods



Transport policies determine the efficiency and sustainability of wood product logistics



Circular economy strategies influence the utilization of wood residues and by-products

Certifications and standards ensure wood products meet quality, sustainability, and circular economy goals

Trade policies regulate the flow of wood products across borders, ensuring compliance with sustainability and legality standards

Key trade-offs and policy challenges

- Industrial wood use vs. biodiversity conservation
- Bioenergy vs. carbon storage
- Fragmented objectives and stakeholder conflicts



Case study: Wood in construction

- Major consumer of sawnwood and engineered wood
- Critical role in decarbonising the built environment
- Opportunities for carbon storage and circularity



Case study: Wood in construction

EU construction policy landscape

- Construction Products Regulation (CPR)
- Energy efficiency directives (EPBD)
- EU Green Deal & New European Bauhaus



Case study: Wood in construction

Advancing circularity in construction

- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Wood4Bauhaus and ECTP
- Material passports, reuse and lifecycle assessment (LCA)



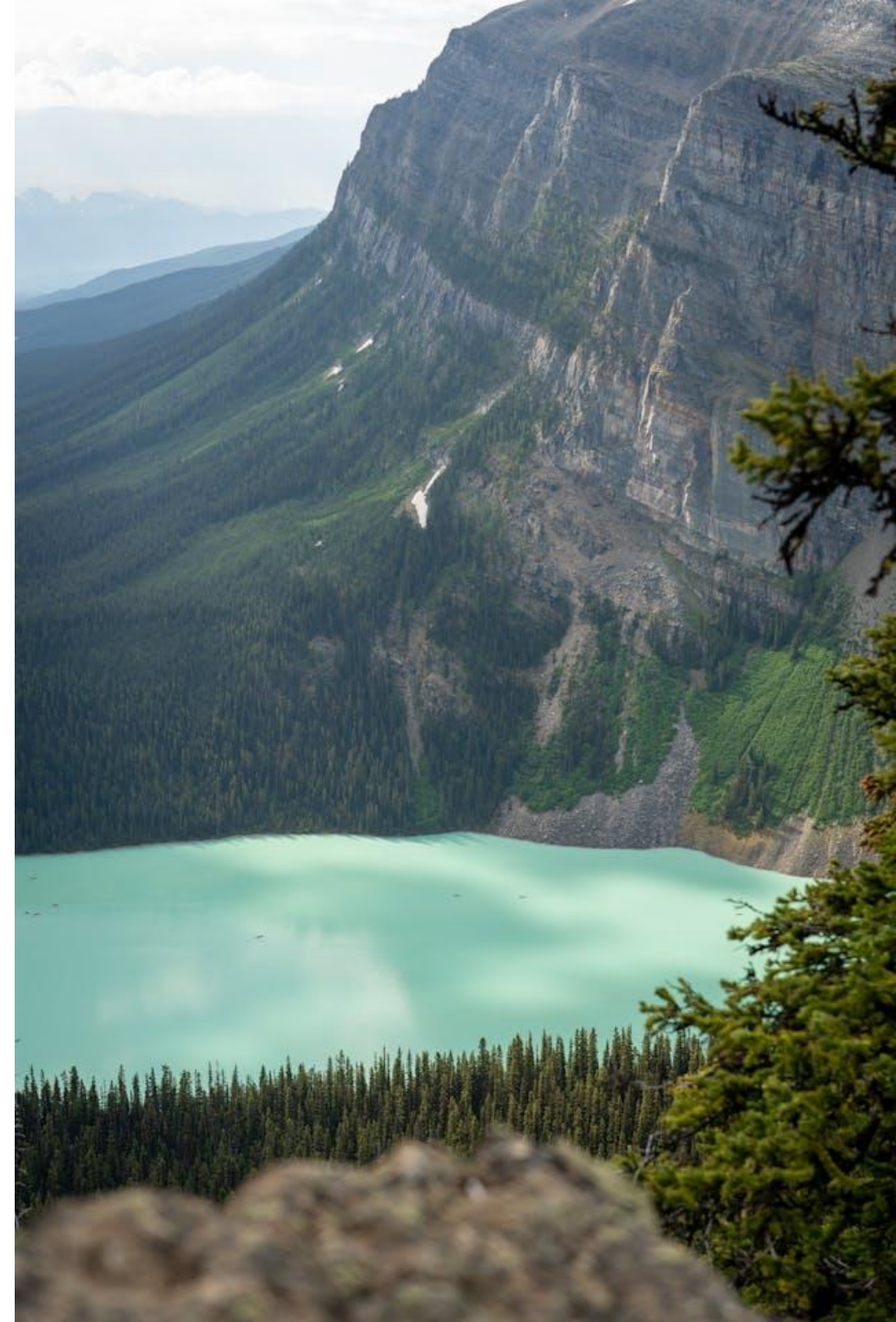


Policy gaps and recommendations

- Need for better policy coherence across sectors
- HWPs (Harvested Wood Products) underrepresented in broader climate strategies
- Improve monitoring and cross-sectoral coordination

Key takeaways

- EU forest policy is a mosaic of strategic, regulatory, and economic tools that intersect with broader environmental and industrial goals.
- Construction is a strategic sector for leveraging the carbon storage benefits of wood, aligning climate, circular economy, and innovation agendas.
- Greater policy integration is needed to align forest policy with industrial development, sustainability goals, and climate mitigation.



Thanks for your attention

Contact:

filip.aggestam@efi.int

Link to full report:

<https://doi.org/10.36333/k2a07>

Pictures in this presentation have been taken from Pexels and Adobe stock.