



11 September 2023

All eyes on the European Commission, as a crucial EU decision on forest monitoring is due.

Dear European Commission President Von Der Leyen, Commissioner Šefčovič, Commissioner Sinkevičius and Prime Minister Sánchez,

The European Commission has pledged to release a key law on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection in the first quarter of 2023.

The Commission states that the aim of this initiative is to develop an EU-wide forest observation framework, to provide open access to detailed, accurate, regular and timely information on the condition and management of EU forests, and the many products and ecosystem services that forests provide.

This information would lead to more data-driven and harmonised policy and decision-making on forests. It is expected to increase public trust in forest management, reduce illegal logging, incentivise and reward more sustainable forest management, and support forests to adapt to climate change.

Given the gravity of the challenges our forests face in the onset of an evident climate- and biodiversity crisis, the undersigned NGOs urge you to follow up swiftly on the important commitments made and to ensure the realisation of a coordinated EU forest monitoring system.

We remain at your disposal to discuss this important pillar of the European Green Deal.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Mowat, Campaigns Coordinator, Fern, on behalf of the NGOs listed

Networks

Birdlife Europe and Central Asia
EURAF - European Agroforestry Federation
European Environmental Bureau

NGOs

2 Celsius
Biomass Action Group
BirdLife Sverige
CEEweb for Biodiversity
Comité Schone Lucht
Dryade
Deutsche Umwelthilfe
Environmental Investigation Agency
Euronatur
Federazione Nazionale Pro Natura
Fern
Fertő Tó Barátai Egyesület
Focus
Forests of the World
France Nature Environnement
Friends of the Irish Environment
Genç Düşünce Enstitüsü
Green Impact
Leefmilieu
Luontoliitto
NOAH - Friends of the Earth Denmark
Natural Resources Defense Council
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot
Save Estonia's Forests
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Protect the Forest
Vogelbescherming Nederland