



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

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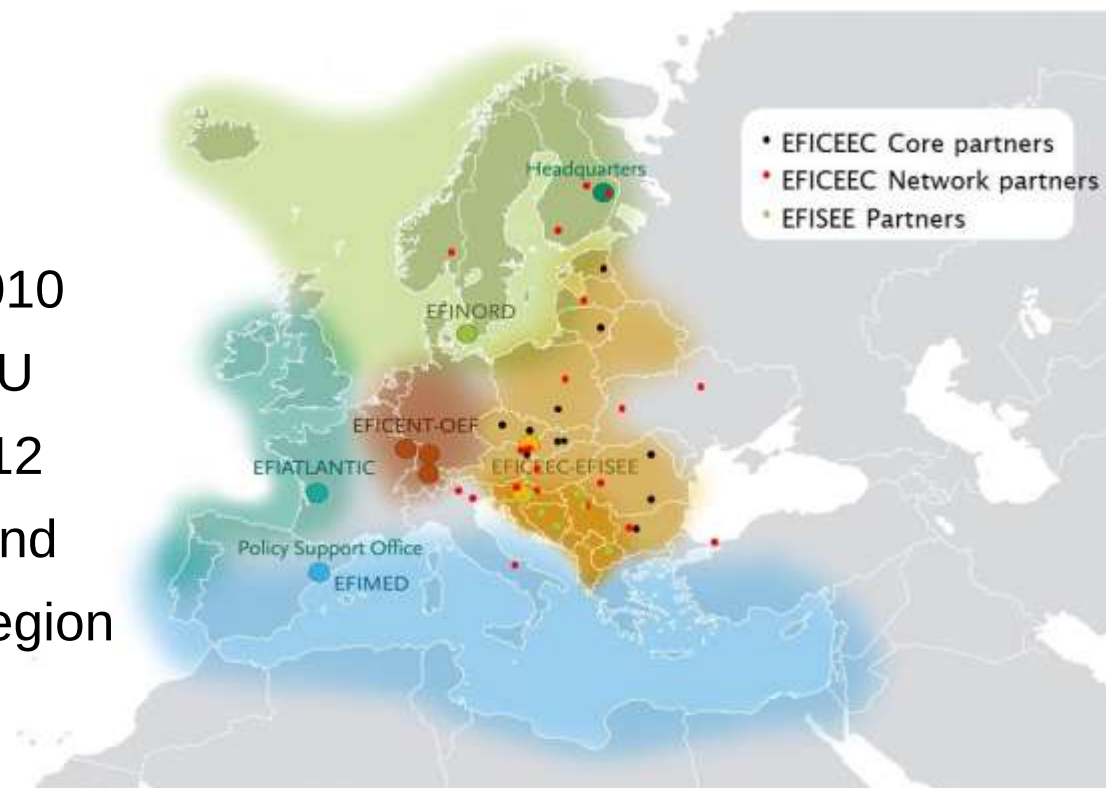
Forest Governance in Europe

Regional working group on joint water resource and forestry management in South Eastern Europe, 12th – 15th March 2013, Gmunden, Austria



EFI Regional Office for Central-Eastern European Countries (EFICEEC)

- following EFI decentralisation strategy into the regions
- EFICEEC launched in April 2010
- Head Office in Vienna at BOKU
- EFICEEC-EFISEE in Nov. 2012
- aims at stimulating research and collaboration in the CEE/SEE region



EFICEEC Core Partners



EFICEEC Funding



StadT Wien

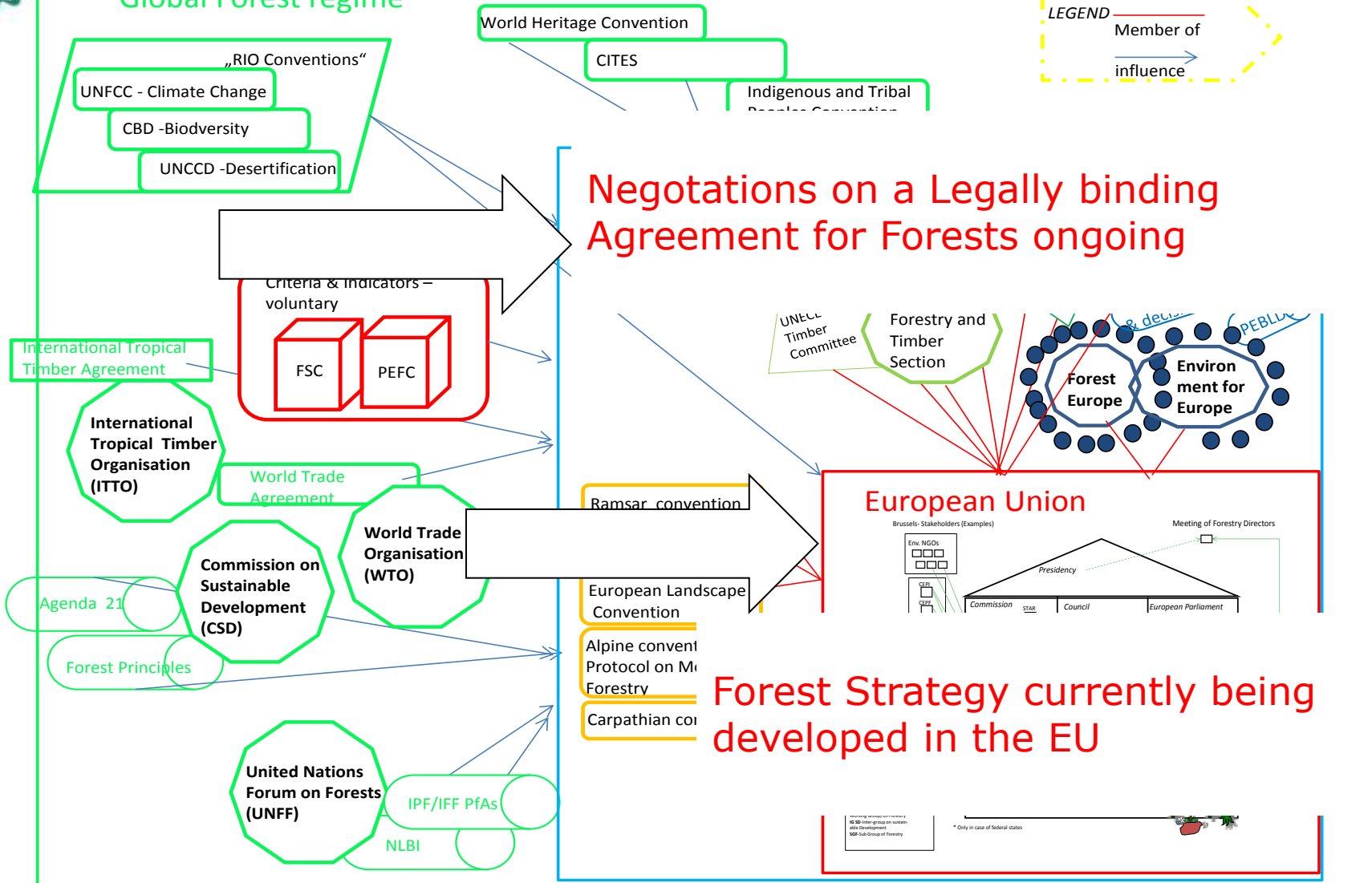


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Global Forest regime





1st ThinkForest Project – *main aims*

- (1) assess current framework of European forest-related policies, instruments and actors constellations
- (2) analyse new policy approaches and institutional innovations to develop new ideas for European forest policy making





Status and achievements I

1. **Increased importance** and impact of European forest policy
2. **No provision for a common forest policy**,
but a dense regulatory network has developed
 - building on competences in agriculture, trade and environment
 - in practice, an existing EU forest policy
3. **A shift from focusing on agriculture and trade** to e.g.
also addressing biodiversity, climate change, and energy





Status and achievements II

4. Forest-related policies connect with a number of policy sectors

→ European **forest policy** is a **cross-sectoral** thematic field

5. **Pan-European level contributed substantially** to forest policy

- Defining SFM and developing C&I
- Cross-sectoral coordinating actions

6. **Pan-European level serving as a 'bridge'**





Challenges I

1. Forests dealt with in different EU policy fields,
with partly **competing claims and objectives**
 - halt biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation, wood mobilisation, ...
 - resource limits, trade-offs
2. **Inter-sectoral coordination** on forests rather weakly developed
 - a number of committees for exchange, consultation and coordination, ... but conclude that ...
3. European forest policy has become more inclusive, but cross-sectoral **participation**
mainly limited to information sharing and consultation





Challenges II

4. Lack of central coordination mechanisms

- sectoral approaches not necessarily problematic - solved in implementation?
- but tightened competition for forest resources expected (e.g. EFSOS 2011)

5. European policy influenced by international initiatives

- CBD, UNFCCC, ...
- global norms and discourses co-shape European discussions

→ **no comprehensive, international European forest strategy,**
hampering the EU's ability to play a more effective international role?





1. Competences

to develop common EU forestry policy missing (internal + external)

- a. Introduce specific forest provisions in EU treaty
- b. Develop foreign forest policy to strengthen EUs role internationally





2. Competing claims and limits (objectives /targets)

a. Enhanced cooperation (Lisbon Treaty)

=> at least 9 EU member countries

b. Deliberative form of governance

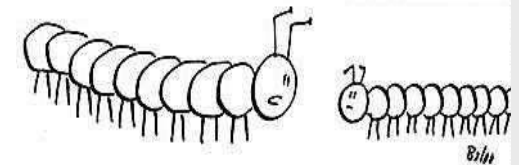
=> reasoned arguments, openness, reciprocal
argumentation





3. Coordination of actors and instruments

- a. Forest directive
to integrate three dimensions of sustainability
- b. Open Method of Coordination
to coordinate policy via national forest policy programmes



"Strength and speed are useful, son, but coordination is *crucial*!"



3. Participation (representation, interests)

a. Interparliamentarian cooperation

to gain access to information, share ideas, practices
and assess legislative programs

e.g. forest dialogue between responsible committee



b. Civil fora

to increase legitimacy, gain access to citizens perspectives
and information that experts don't hold

e.g. regionalised civil fora to engage citizens in forest policy-making





5. Implementation

a. legally binding and non-legally binding instruments can take effect depending on credible sanctions, ownership, knowledge and peer review

e.g. devolution initiatives to give more power to decentralised policy-makers in local areas





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Thank you for your attention

