



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

International Conference

Forestry and Forestry conservation

Rome, 15 - 16 October 2024

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF



AND WITH THE PATRONAGE OF

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The scenario

Forests and trees cover 31% of the earth's surface; 54.1% of them are in five countries (Brazil, Canada, China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America). The area is shrinking, with over 10 million hectares of forest lost every year.

Forests provide habitat for 80% of the world's known animal species and 70% of vascular plant species. About 18% of world's forest area is in protected areas, but forest biodiversity remains heavily threatened by deforestation and forest degradation.

The forests cover 39% of the EU's land area, two thirds of them are in Sweden, Finland, Spain, France, Germany and Poland, with ranges from 60% in Finland, Sweden and Slovenia to 9.9% in the Netherlands. Only 4% of them have not been modified by humans, 8% are plantations, while the rest belong to the semi-natural forest category. About 60% of the EU forests belong to the private sector.

EU imports 1.829 billion euros of sawn material (2023) mainly from Ukraine, Cameroon, USA and Norway and 625 million euros of trunks for 50% from Norway and the rest from Brazil, Switzerland, USA and UK.

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) 995/2010 prohibits the import of illegal timber and derived products and forces importers and traders to verify the origin of the imported material and to record data that allow the product traceability. An ad hoc import licensing system (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, FLEGT) has been set up, with a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPAs) between EU and a timber producing country as a key element. The first agreement, active since 2016, has been signed with from Indonesia. Negotiations are in progress with Ghana and other countries.

A public consultation on the EUTR subject (Impact assessment / Fitness check) indicated that sustainability issues are very high (88% of support) and stressed the opportunity of broadening the effects of the regulation, being the EU responsible for 16% of global deforestation.

At the Brazzaville Summit (October 2023) the delegates of the Amazonia, Congo and Borneo-Mekong basin countries - which possess 80% of tropical forests and two thirds of terrestrial biodiversity - called for a coalition of leaders to discuss how to finance the protection of their environments rich in wildlife and important carbon dioxide storage sites.

The Brazzaville Summit was preceded by the Amazon Summit (Belém do Pará, 7-8 August 2023), in which the Presidents of the Amazon countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru - and the representatives of eight governments from Africa and Asia, denounced, in the final statement "United for our forests", the failure of the industrial countries to fulfil their commitment to provide 100 billion dollars a year to face the climate crisis and the biodiversity conservation; disapproved environmental measures as a "hidden restriction on international trade"; required "preferential access of forest products" and demanded that rich countries accelerate the decarbonization of their economies and recognize "the invaluable contribution of indigenous people and local communities" to forest conservation .

The first global assessment of the Paris Agreement presented at COP 28 (Dubai, 30/11 – 12/12, 2023), noted the delay of some countries in achieving their targets and highlighted the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 60% of the 2019 values, to limit global warming to 1.5 °C by 2035. World leaders also discussed the urgency of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, while maintaining the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the "Declaration on forests and land use" drawn up at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021). The event in Dubai was preceded by the announcement of Brazil's attempt to set up an international forest conservation fund. With the addition of "forest degradation" in addition to "deforestation", in the final statement, the international community decided to coherently address the unsustainable exploitation of forest resources and the significant gas emissions, and to create a fair and responsible path of action.

Europe expressed the willingness of intensifying its cooperation with timber producing countries and presented a series of monitoring and prevention measures and tools, which include the updating of the EUTR regulation (EUDR: EU Reg. 2023/1115 of 5/31/23), expanding the timber trade measures to some produce (soya, palm oil, beef, coffee, wood products, printed products and rubber), by 30/12/2024. This measure will introduce a series of mandatory controls for which importing, transforming and exporting companies will have to trace the products since the place of production, certifying that they do not derive from land deforested or degraded after 31/12/2020, that these products comply with the legislation of the producing country, including respect for human rights and the rights of the concerned indigenous populations. The Regulation - which came into force on 20/6/2023 and provides for deadlines from 1/1/2024 with some refitting - is at the core of a discussions between member states and trade associations, which anticipate possible market distortions. Although the EUDR is a European rule, its implications are effectively global given the volume and international scope of European trade in processed products.

Objectives of the Conference

The Conference aims to give impetus to the debate and delve into urgent issues, with the involvement of political, institutional and scientific representatives, in order to strengthen the attention of the G7 member countries, the international community and the private economic sector on the urgency of initiatives for the wood and forest conservation and protection and the promotion of sustainable silviculture everywhere on the planet, through the international cooperation of the scientific world with the public and private sectors.

The Conference also offers the opportunity of presenting sustainable forest management actions underway in Italy, the EU and other areas of the world, and of examining the issues emerging from EU initiatives on timber import certification.

The conference may as well lead to the development of proposals for strengthening and enlarging existing tools and the adoption of innovative policies for the protection and development of forests, as indicated in the recent international summits in Brazzaville, Belem and Nairobi, the contents of which will be presented during the conference.

Program (Tentative)

9:30 Welcome addresses

ROBERTO ANTONELLI, President, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
FRANCESCO LOLLOBRIGIDA, Minister, MASAF
QU DONGYU, Director General, FAO

10:00 ISMAIL BELEN, Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests Bureau
UN Strategic Plan for Forests and framework for action

10:30 Coffee

Session I, International Dynamics

Chair: Robert Mavsar, European Forest Institute

11:00 THOMAS HOFER, Forest Direction, FAO
World Forests

11:30 Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest economy, Democratic Republic of Congo*,
Results from the Brazzaville Summits and COP 28

12:00 Representative of the Federal Republic of Brasil*
Belem ACTO

12:30 Representative of the Republic of Kenya*
The Nairobi Summit

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Valery Lemair, European Forest Institute
European Forests and the EUTR/EUDR system

15:30 ALESSANDRA STEFANI, Directorate General, Economia montana e foreste, MASAF
The Italian strategy for forests and SINfor monitoing programme

16:00 VITTORIO COLIZZI, Società geografica Italiana, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata
The Italian development cooperation in Chad

16:30 GHERARDO LA FRANCESCA AND RICCARDO TIDDI, Museo Verde.
Development without deforestation, a possible option.

18:00 Business meeting

20:00 Dinner

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Session II. The Italian way to sustainable forest management

Chair: X, Director general, Mountain Economy and Forestry, MASAF, Italy.

9:00 FRANCESCO FERRINI – FABIO SALBITANO, Accademia dei Georgofili, Università degli Studi di Firenze
Urban forests and Climate change

9:30 GIUSEPPE SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA, Accademia Nazionale delle scienze detta dei XL, Università degli Studi della Tuscia
Forests and enviromental restoration

10:00 DAVIDE PETTENELLA, Università degli Studi di Padova
Forests, development and migration

10:30 Coffee

11:00 FEDERICO MAGNANI, Accademia Nazionale di Agricoltura, Università degli studi di Bologna.
Forests, environment and idrology

11:30 MARCO MARCHETTI Accademia italiana di Scienze Forestali, Università degli Studi di Roma, La Sapienza
Forests and biodiversty

12:00 ANDREA SONNINO, Federazione italiana dottori agronomi e forestali (FIDAF)
Forests, food and health

12:40 Concluding session

Chair: Enrico Porceddu, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Università degli Studi della Tuscia
Discussion and approval of the final statement

Conclusions

* TBC

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

