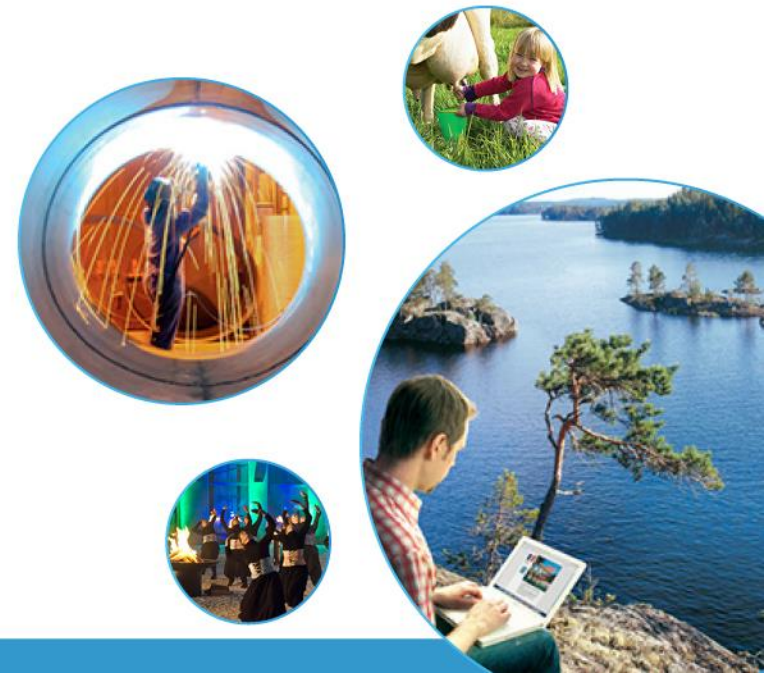


Forest-based bioeconomy – why we need to be heard in Brussels?

26.6.2019

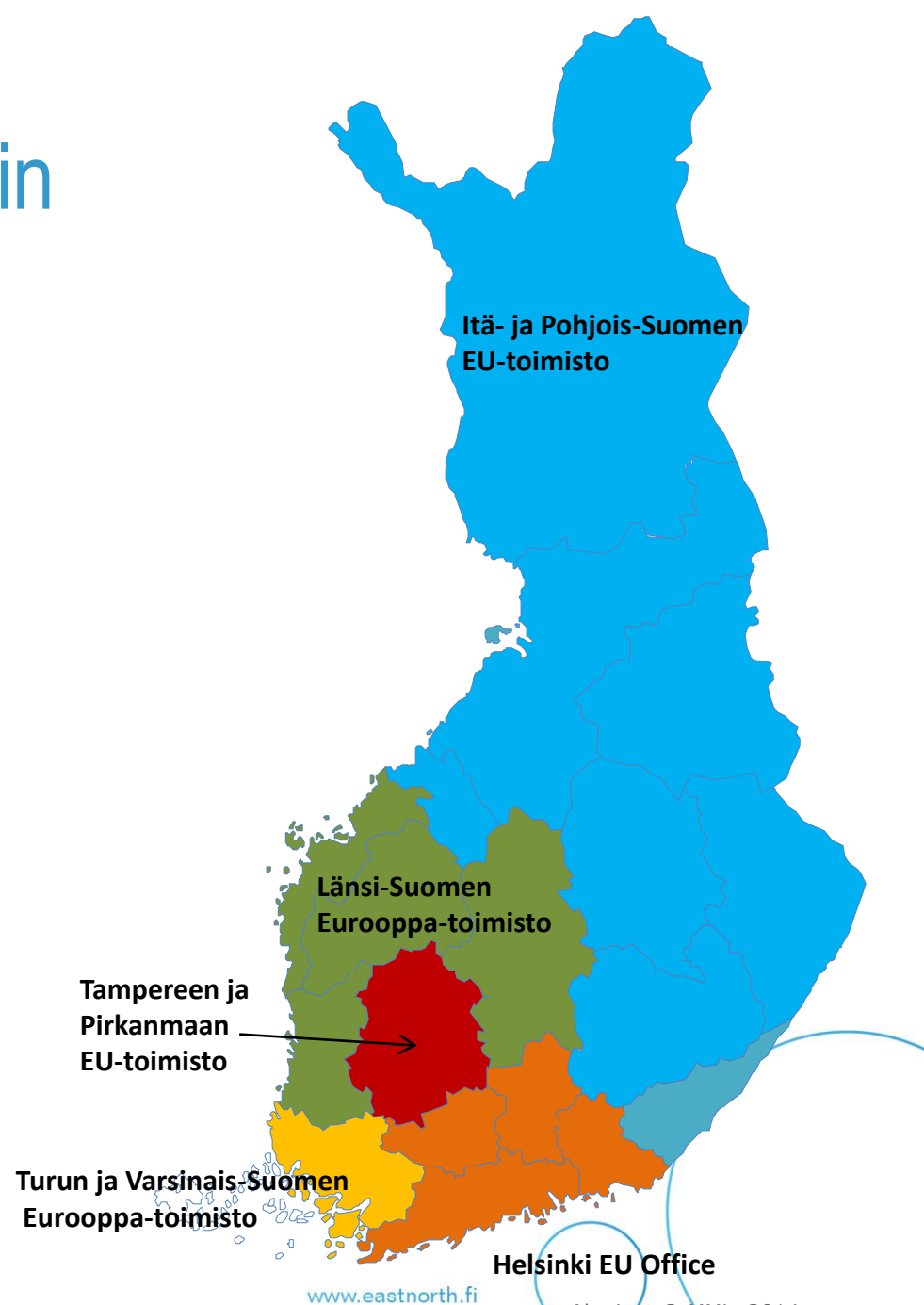
Sointu Räisänen

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Finnish regional offices in Brussels

- Overall cloes to 300 regional offices in Brussels
- Five Finnish regional offices
- EU-offices represent regions, their universities, businesses etc.



Senior Advisor Sointu Räisänen



ERRIIN European Regions
Research and Innovation Network



ERIAFF

Forested Regions

WORKING GROUP LEADER

SMART CITIES



**SET Plan Temporary Working Group (TWG)
Smart Cities and Communities (SET Plan action 3.2)**

EC Coordinating officer (CO):

Jens BARTHOLMES (DG ENER C2): Jens.BARTHOLMES@ec.europa.eu

Head of Unit (HoU) responsible:

Andreea STRACHINESCU (DG ENER C2)

Stakeholders¹

European Construction and Technology Platform (co-Chair)	Paul Cartuyvels Alain Zarli
European Regions Research and Innovation Network (co-Chair)	Richard Tuffs Sointu Räisänen Peter Faber



SETIS

Strategic Energy Technologies Information System

Northern forests & EU – who decides?

- Often impact of EU legislation is overestimated in EU countries
- Finnish legislation 1995-2015: 17,8 % of legislation had connection to EU legislation (Research conducted by Tampere university professorora Tapio Raunio & Matti Wiberg)

EU decision making process

#1 Commission proposal

European Commission submits legislative proposal to the European Parliament



#2 1st reading in the Parliament

During its 1st reading, the European Parliament examines the Commission's proposal and may adopt or amend it.

#3 1st reading in Council

During its 1st reading, the Council may decide to accept Parliament's position in which case the legislative act is adopted, or it may amend Parliament's position, and return the proposal to Parliament for a 2nd reading.

#4 2nd reading in Parliament

Parliament examines Council's position and approves it, in which case the act is approved, or rejects it, in which case the act will not enter into force and the whole procedure is ended; or proposes amendments and returns the proposal to Council for a 2nd reading.

#5 2nd reading in Council

Council examines Parliament's 2nd reading position and either approves all of Parliament's amendments meaning the act is adopted, or does not approve all amendments, leading to the convening of the Conciliation Committee.

#6 Conciliation

The Conciliation Committee, composed of an equal number of MEPs and Council representatives, tries to reach agreement on a joint text. If unsuccessful, the legislative act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If a joint text is agreed, it is forwarded to the European Parliament and Council for a 3rd reading.

#7a 3rd reading in Parliament

The European Parliament examines the joint text and votes in plenary. It cannot change the wording of the joint text. If it rejects it or fails to act on it, the act is not adopted and the procedure is ended. If it is approved by Parliament and Council, the act is adopted.

#7b 3rd reading in the Council

Council examines the joint text. It cannot change the wording. If it either rejects or does not act on it, the act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If it approves the text and the Parliament also approves it, the act is adopted.

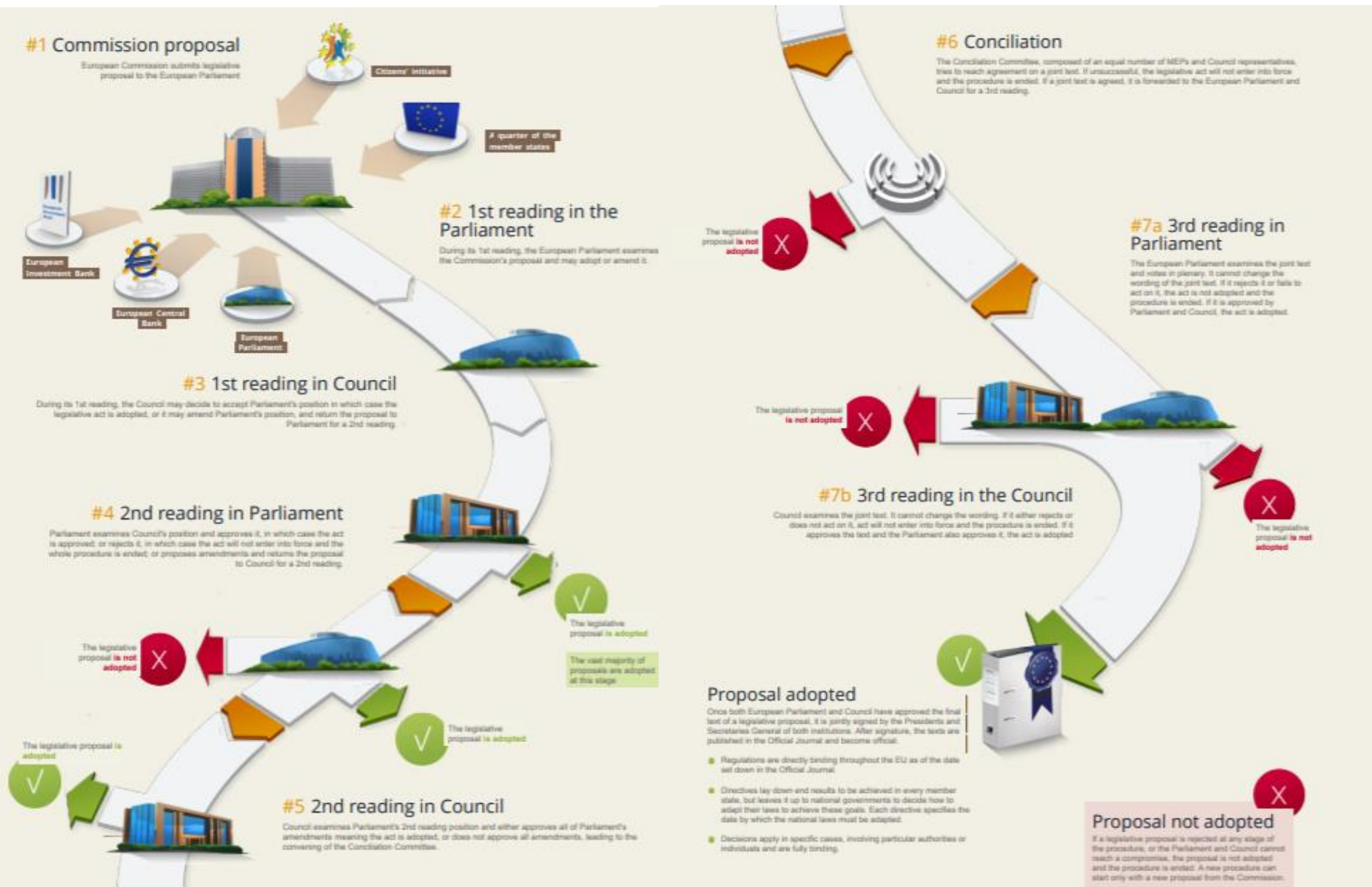
Proposal adopted

Once both European Parliament and Council have approved the final text of a legislative proposal, it is jointly signed by the Presidents and Secretaries General of both institutions. After signature, the texts are published in the Official Journal and become official.

- Regulations are directly binding throughout the EU as of the date set down in the Official Journal.
- Directives lay down end results to be achieved in every member state, but leaves it up to national governments to decide how to adapt their laws to achieve these goals. Each directive specifies the date by which the national laws must be adopted.
- Decisions apply in specific cases, involving particular authorities or individuals and are fully binding.

Proposal not adopted

If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the Parliament and Council cannot reach a compromise, the proposal is not adopted and the procedure is ended. A new procedure can start only with a new proposal from the Commission.





Transparency Register

On 26/06/2019, there are 11812 registrants in the register.

They are from the following (sub)sections: +

+ I - Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants 1,083

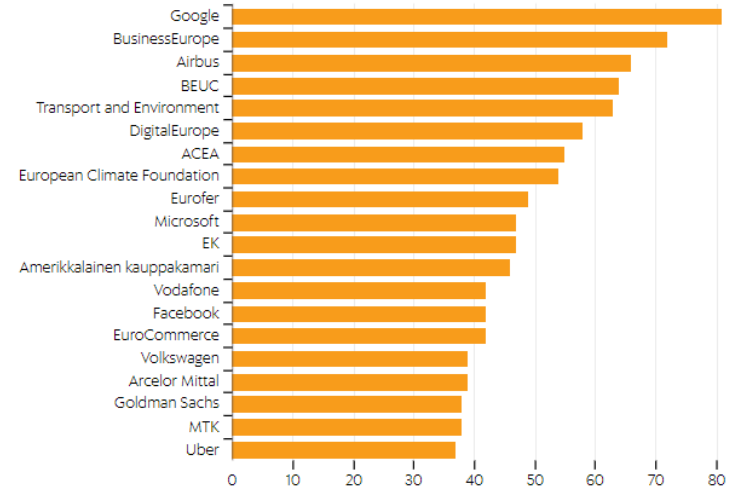
+ II - In-house lobbyists and trade/business/professional associations 6,040

+ III - Non-governmental organisations 3,184

+ IV - Think tanks, research and academic institutions 884

+ V - Organisations representing churches and religious communities 52

+ VI - Organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc. 569



Search word "forest" gives 71 hits, including industry, NGOs, forest owners associations etc.

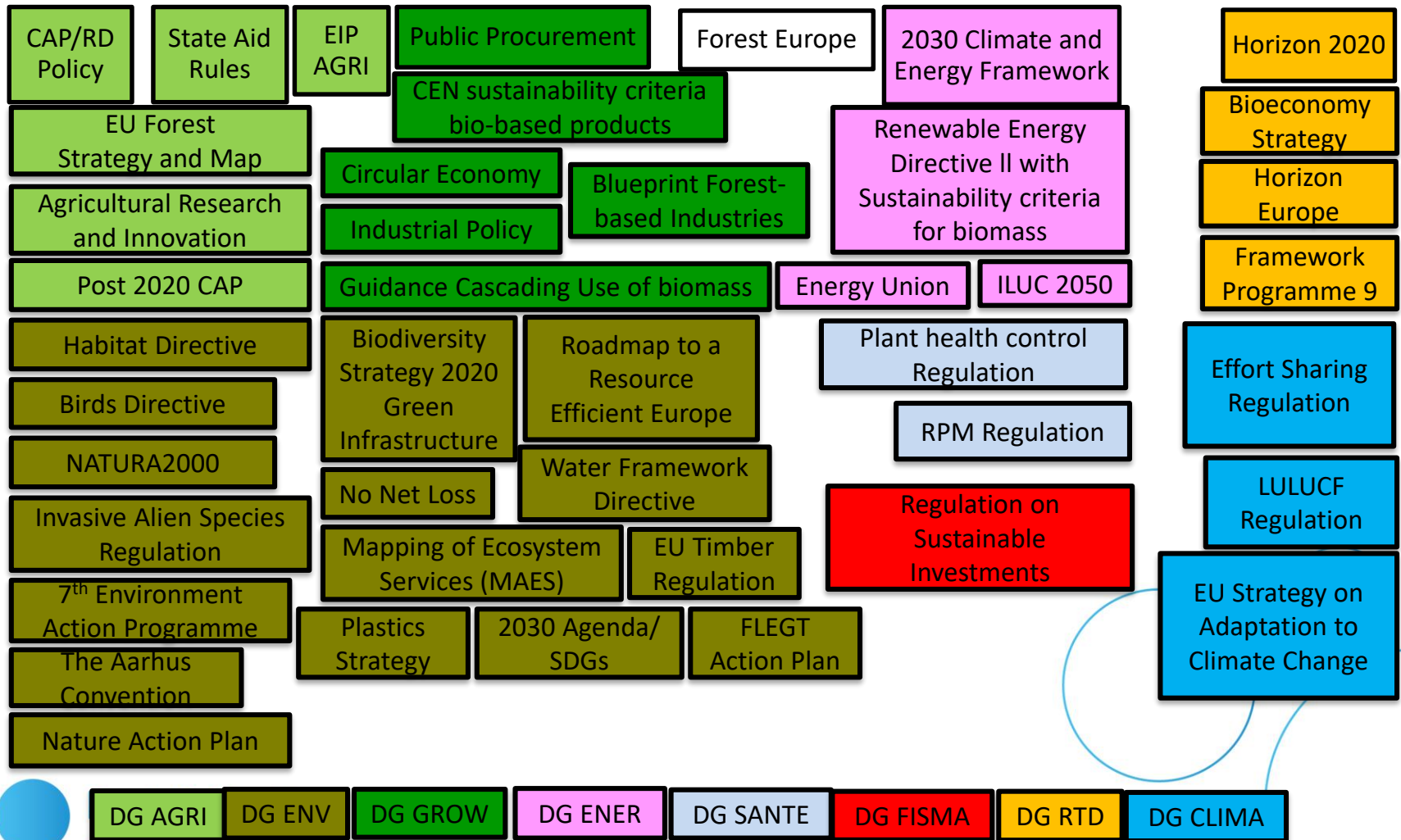
Brussels based lobbies related to forestry



Forest-based Sector
Technology Platform



EU has no competency on forestry, but still EU legislation and processes have an impact on forestry



Recent/current EU policies/legislation having an impact on forestry

- Renewable Energy Directive Recast (bioenergy)
- Regulation on sustainable investments 24.5.2018
 - Definition on sustainable forest management
- Commission non-binding guidelines on cascading use of wood (2019)
- EU's Bioeconomy Strategy update 2018
- "A Clean Planet for all" -strategy, carbon neutral Europe by 2050

EU's forest strategy (valid until 2020)

- [Council conclusions](#) on the implementation 5.4.2019, priorities for 2019-2020:
 - making full use of all the financial tools (forestry measures under the Common Agricultural Policy);
 - mainstreaming EU biodiversity objectives, planned evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020;
 - integrating nature conservation into SFM
 - Etc

Next big debate: biodiversity..?

European Commission - Press release

An overwhelming majority of Europeans are concerned about the loss of biodiversity and support stronger EU action to protect nature

Brussels, 6 May 2019

According to a new survey, Europeans are increasingly concerned about the state of the natural world. In an overwhelming consensus, 96 % of the more than 27.000 interviewed citizens said that we have a responsibility to protect nature and that this is also essential for tackling climate change.

The [Eurobarometer](#) survey reveals awareness is generally increasing on the meaning of biodiversity, its importance, threats and measures to protect it. Citizens' opinions are in line with the goals of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 that aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem service, and with the objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, that form the backbone of the EU's policy to protect nature. The Eurobarometer survey comes ahead of the first global assessment of the state of nature and humanity's place in it, launched by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) later today.

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu **Vella** said: *"The latest Biodiversity Eurobarometer survey clearly demonstrates three things: Europeans care deeply about nature and biodiversity; they recognize climate change and biodiversity loss as two sides of the same coin and they expect the EU to act in order to safeguard nature. Coupled with the solid scientific evidence coming from IPBES later today, the Commission has both a duty and a mandate to work towards a strong global deal for nature and people in 2020."*

ERIAFF-network: European forested regions



ERIAFF network

European Regions for Innovation
in Agriculture, Food and Forestry

- Italy: Abruzzo, Calabria, Toscana
- Spain: Castilla y Leon, Katalonia, Baskimaa
- Germany: Bavaria
- Finland: Itä- ja Pohjois-Suomi
- Romania: Harghita
- Sweden: Norrbotten, Västerbotten

ERIAFF European forested regions: priorities 2019-2020

- Regional circular bioeconomy strategies vs. EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- Collaboration on forest fires and new risks (pests etc)
- Climate smart, sustainable forest management
- Promotion of wood construction
- Next event: Helsinki 8th of July 2019: regional bioeconomy strategies

Bioeconomy & EU funding

- EU-funding as a tool to achieve policy objectives i.e. ERDF, ESF, Horizon 2020, European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), LIFE...
- Building partnerships for common projects – future common investments?



Most of EU support focuses in the early phase innovation – more support needed for commercialisation of new products

Access-to-finance conditions for Investments in Bio-Based Industries and the Blue Economy

https://www.eib.org/attachments/pj/access_to_finance_study_on_bioeconomy_en.pdf

EIB circular economy and bioeconomy projects

Table 2 EIB CE lending in the period 2013 - 2017 (signed operations)

Sector	CE lending 2013-2017 (EUR m)	Share
Industry and services sector	706	33%
Water management sector	554	26%
Agriculture and bioeconomy sector	366	17%
Waste management sector	331	16%
Mobility	95	5%
Urban development sector	50	2%
Energy sector	14	1%
Total CE lending	2 116	100%

Novamont renewable chemistry: This project concerns the development of innovative bioplastics and biochemicals based on renewable resources and which are biodegradable and compostable. Novamont's holistic approach and vision for the bioeconomy, where the business model includes local agriculture as well as the reuse of by-products, is producing positive results for material innovation, and is opening up opportunities in the market and larger economy.

[Link](#)

https://www.eib.org/attachments/thematic/circular_economy_guide_en.pdf



European
Commission



PILOT ACTION: REGIONS IN INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

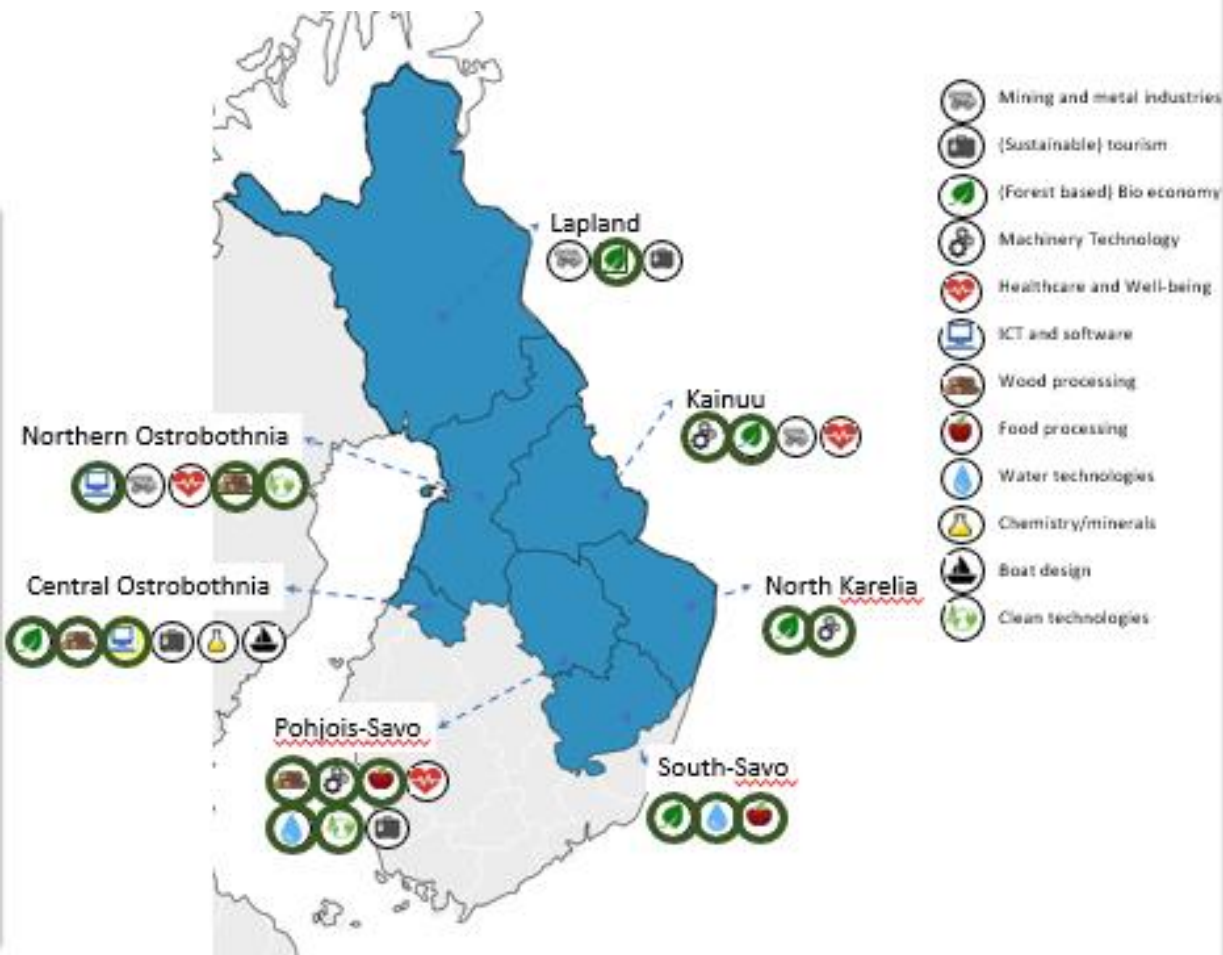
#IndustrialTransition

Participating regions/countries



- Each partnership received advisory services up to a value of €200.000, organised in partnership with the OECD.
- Grant of up to €300.000 to regions to implement the strategy

“Digitisation and Circular Economy enhancing the Bio-Economy in East-North Finland” applied to “Tree, Wood & Timber Value chain”



- Improved **automation and digitisation**
 - New **smart, digital solutions** e.g. new sensors, real-time monitoring, digital platform for sharing and bundling of side-streams, AI applied to harvesting and logging etc.
 - Promotion of **natural products** towards e.g. wood construction, drugs, medicines and cosmetics, energy, textile, food, inorganic chemistry etc.
 - **Industrial symbiosis** better valorisation of side streams such as wood chips, tree bark, saw dust, bio-ethanol, lignin, turpentine, CO², bio-composites and bio-plastics etc.
 - Promotion/upscale of (existing and new) solutions for **water treatment and recycling**.
- ➔ Cross-regional voucher system
➔ Focus on small SMEs & micro-Companies



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- For our regions being an active participant in bioeconomy discussion in Brussels has meant:
 - More money €€
 - More say in matters important for our region
 - New alliances, new opportunities