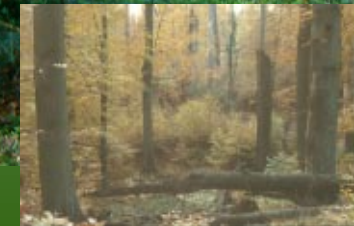


# How does an ideal Forest Law look like?



## Forest Laws – what **must** / **can** they rule?

<b>must</b>	<b>can</b>
Ecological requirements (tree species, long term indicators, clearcuts, chemicals, GMOs, minimum cutting age)	exchange of property (private owners with the state)
Detailed planning and implementing rules, making a law operational	Procedures or buying land from the private
Compatibility with other legislation (hunting, conservation laws, regional planning)	Adaptive towards information monitoring, fix date for renewing the law
allow progressive efforts (deadwood, retention trees, clearcut)	specific areas defined like plantations
Describe relationship between forest functions Ecological, economical, social	Certain percentage of forests outside commercial use, percentage of protected law (who shall be responsible?!)
Specific role of state's (public) forests	Positive income
International agreements (e.g. indigenous people and local communities)	

## Forest Laws – what **must** / **can** they rule?

<b>must</b>	<b>can</b>
Participation patterns/ transparency (internet), right of access to information, minimum standard of information, socio- economic protection of forest owners, negotiation procedures	Seasons of special Protection regimes for threatened species
EIA (Envir. Impact assessment)	
Sanctions, incentives, compensation schemes, fair compensation ensured	
Include biodiversity goal	
Large protected areas guaranteed	
Import of timber	
Access rights (walking, mountainbiking,...)	

## Principles of nature friendly forestry



<b>Law</b>	<b>Voluntary instruments</b>
clear prohibition of negative developments (GMOs)	furthering natural species
encourage to go over to natural tree composition (also hunting) and natural regeneration (no invasive species)	raise public awareness
ban clearcuts	consider specifics of the countries
ban chemicals and drainage from forests (exceptions by special agencies)	Restoration of water regimes and removing drainages
Prohibition of direct and indirect drainage and	

**Ideal solution:** finding a combination for legislative rules in laws and policies, principles in the national law and a clear delegation for competences of regional units + control

## Questions to be addressed:

1. Which voluntary instruments are applied across Europe to ensure and enhance the biodiversity of the forest?
2. Which ecological goals should be reached with those instruments (subjects of protection)?
3. Which advantages (strengths/chances) and disadvantages (weaknesses/risks) does the appliance of voluntary instruments have?
4. How are these instruments linked with forest legislation?
5. How can politics across Europe be improved concerning these instruments? (What should be considered/done in future?)

Which voluntary instruments are applied across Europe to ensure and enhance the biodiversity of the forest and which ecological goals should be reached with those instruments (subjects of protection)?

Country	Instruments	Ecological goals
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Funding (subsidies (GAK), contracts/agreements)</li> <li>- Certification</li> <li>- Information / Knowledge-Building</li> <li>- voluntary work NGOs</li> </ul>	- different goals (dead wood, tree species composition)
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certification</li> <li>- „promotion of forests“</li> </ul>	- timber production, biodiversity, tourism
Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- alt. energy sources</li> <li>- public awareness</li> </ul>	Forests are state-owned Law enforcement (erosion, etc.)
Czech Rep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- subsidies</li> <li>- voluntary work NGOs</li> <li>-certification (FSC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhancing biodiversity (tree composition, endangered species)</li> <li>- information (tree composition)</li> <li>- practical work (planting etc.)</li> <li>- (in progress)</li> </ul>
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- subsidies (for substitution of fire wood)</li> <li>- information</li> </ul>	Illegal cutting for fire wood decreasing, but now timber export
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- voluntary work NGOs</li> </ul>	Implementation needed, protected areas
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certification (FSC, PEFC)</li> <li>- Pro Silva</li> <li>- Subsidies</li> </ul>	Afforestation, tree composition
Belarussia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- certification (FSC)</li> <li>- raising awareness</li> </ul>	National standards (like FSC)

Which advantages (strengths/chances) and disadvantages (weaknesses/risks) does the appliance of voluntary instruments (PUBLIC FUNDING) have?

### Advantages

- Acceptance (breaking through the wall)
- Flexibility (cp. to law)
- Balancing out financial conflicts (market failures)

### Disadvantages

- discontinuity
- danger of misuse
- “oversimplified” mechanism
- costs (public budget)
- psychological effects

Which advantages (strengths/chances) and disadvantages (weaknesses/risks) does the appliance of voluntary instruments (INFORMATION) have?

### Advantages

- identification of forest owners with objectives
- democratic
- sustainable
- identifying synergies

### Disadvantages

- not balancing out economic costs
- slow and indirect impact
- weak instrument

How are volunteer instruments linked with forest legislation?

## Deadwood / Old (veteran) trees

### Law

- minimum standard should be regulated by law (problems: local site conditions, small-scale ownership, references are needed)
- different types of law
- law should not obliged biodiversity improvement!

### Voluntary instruments

- public financing
- informational instruments (identifying synergies, education of new generation of foresters)

Ideal solution:

How can politics across Europe be improved concerning these instruments? (What should be considered/done in future?)

- very clear biodiversity objectives needed (goal finding process, transparency, implementation of international agreements)
- intersectoral communication processes (new alliances, overcoming conflicts between forest and environmental sector) --> National Forest Programmes  
--> integration of forest sector in developing policies/sectors
- transfer scientific results in practice, “best practices”
- EU rural development programmes and policy guidance (financial resources to enhance public financing)
- challenge: private companies responsible for management of state-owned forests (profit objectives?): clear agreement is needed, e.g. annual contract for biodiversity goals