

Swedish viewpoints on the forest policy processes in Europe

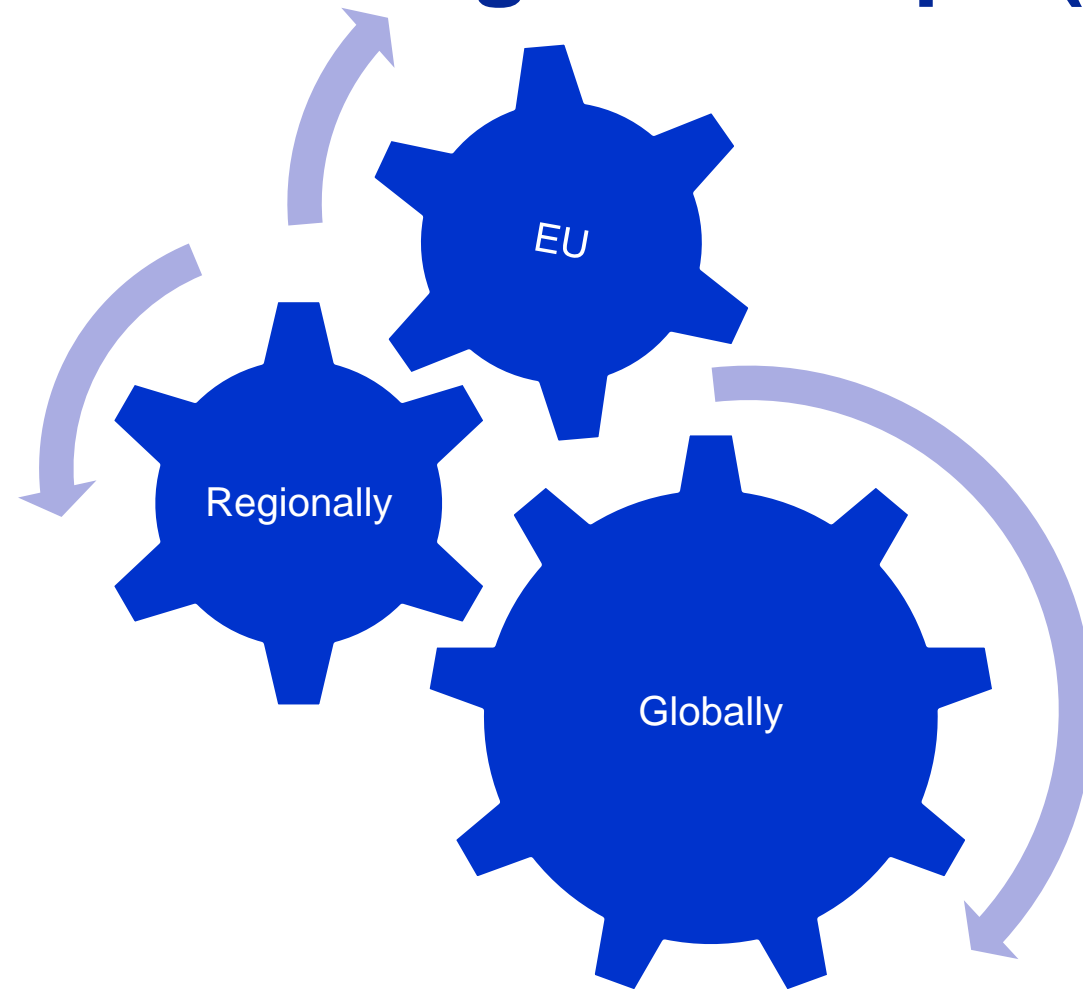
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Overview

- 1. Complexity of the forest policy-making landscape**
- 2. Swedish views on EU forest-related policy developments**
 - New EU Forest Strategy
 - Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU
- 3. Swedish views on FOREST EUROPE's twin tracks**
 - FOREST EUROPE work programme 2015/16
 - LBA Negotiations
- 4. Involvement of the stakeholder community**

Complexity of the forest policy-making landscape (I)



UNCSD

UNFF

UNECE

FAO

FOREST EUROPE

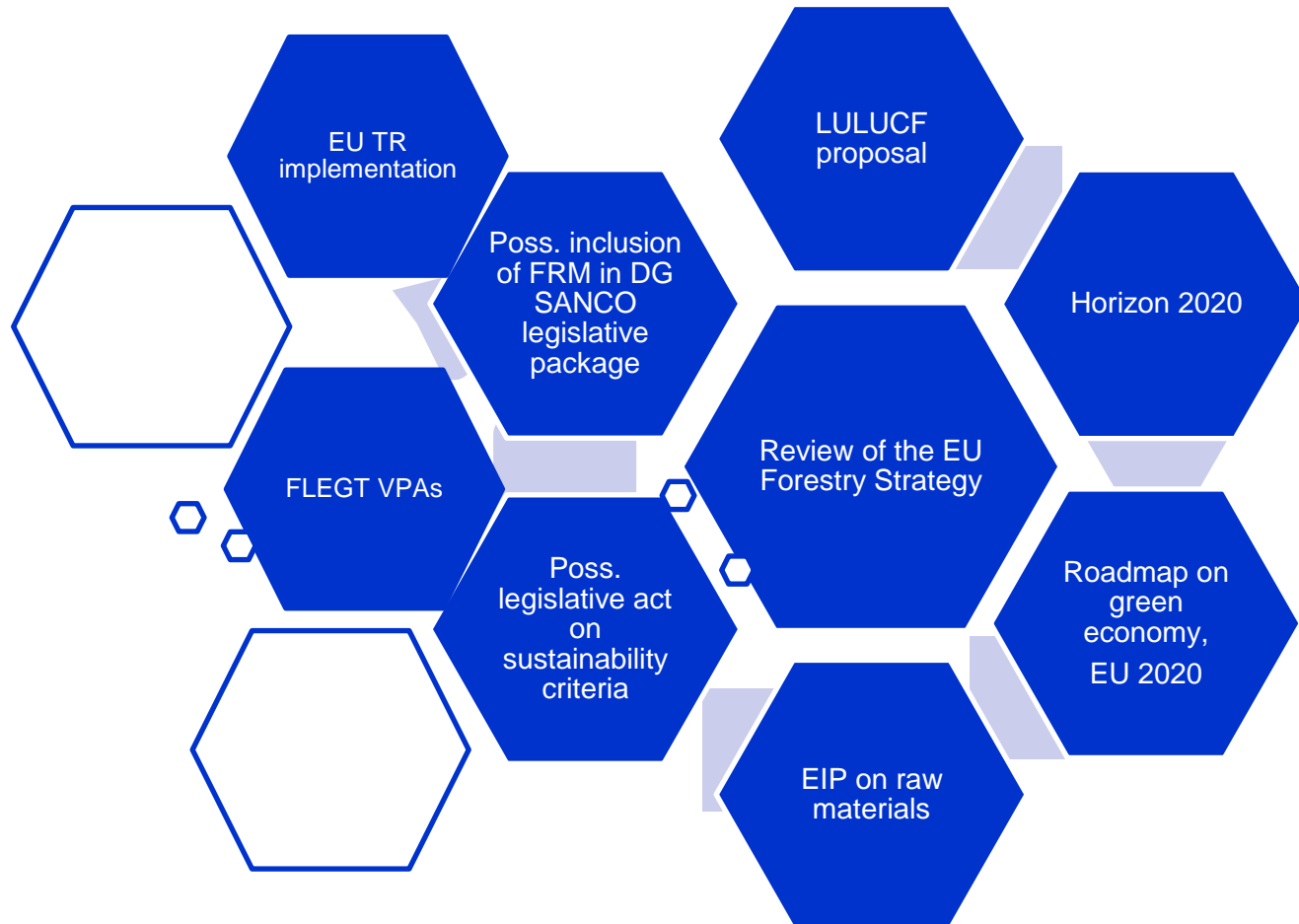
- two tracks (work programme for 2015/2016, and the LBA negotiations)

EU internal policy development:

- Two dossiers on the agenda today, but in reality a whole plethora of inter-related initiatives

Complexity of the forest policy-making landscape (II)

Just to name a few EU forest-related initiatives...



Swedish views on EU forest-related policy developments (I)

General views

- MS are responsible for the development and implementation of their forest policies. (Not a specific legal basis for a common EU forest policy).
- However, strong influence on forest sector through other EU policy areas.
- Basic principles → joint actions where there is EU added value, and full respect of subsidiarity and proportionality principles. Impact assessments and strong internal coordination in the Commission necessary.

Swedish views on EU forest-related policy developments (II)

Review of the EU Forestry Strategy

- Validity intact – but some need to retouch language in order to reflect current policy discussions
- EU added value? In our view: information dissemination, exchange of knowledge and experiences, forest research, common market
- Area for improvement: ensure coherence with other policies or instruments.
- Stay clear off public interventions which could distort competition and/or be detrimental to the sector's long-term competitiveness. No to an expansion of Union financing.

Swedish views on EU forest-related policy developments (III)

Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU (2010)

- Positive to the discussion on adaptation and protection of forest ecosystems in a changing climate
- Current work on forest information (under the SFC)
- Multilateral approaches or poss. EU legislative act
- Point of departure: where we already have reporting obligations
- Cost-effectiveness, build on existing system such as FRA (streamline and reduce reporting burden) and tackle how data can be made more comparable

Swedish views on FOREST EUROPE's two tracks (I)

FOREST EUROPE – implementation of intergovernmental commitments, including the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forest 2020

- Voluntary process, good track-record over more than 20 years
- ELM adopted of work programme until 2015/16:
- Needs to keep delivering on SFM development (tools such as SFM C&I and monitoring and reporting) and address forests role in the transition to a green economy

Swedish views on FOREST EUROPE's two tracks (II)

Implementation of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe (LBA)

- SE called for safeguards in the EU negotiating mandate - *status quo* for competence division *inter alia*
- Content-wise; aim in line with SE priorities → Gov't wants to promote and strengthen SFM. Inclusive and holistic. Recognition needed that a LBA á la *one-size* do not fit all European countries.
- but a poss. LBA must avoid red tape and administrative burdens, distortion of competition, cost-inefficiency, overlaps

Involvement of the stakeholder community

Nationally

- Dialogues and stakeholder consultations. Next consultation on EU and international issues at the Ministry on 24th of April.
- Outreach events, such as this one. To bring in the full involvement of interested parties at all levels

EU

- Advisory groups
- Public consultations
- Influence through elected representatives in the European Parliament

FOREST EUROPE

- One of its core strengths – broad participation. Multiple observer organisation take active part in policy discussions. ELM: two more