

A photograph of a man and a woman in a forest. The man, wearing a plaid shirt and jeans, is pointing upwards towards a tree. The woman, wearing a green cardigan and dark pants, is also looking up. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.

# Views of European Forest Owners

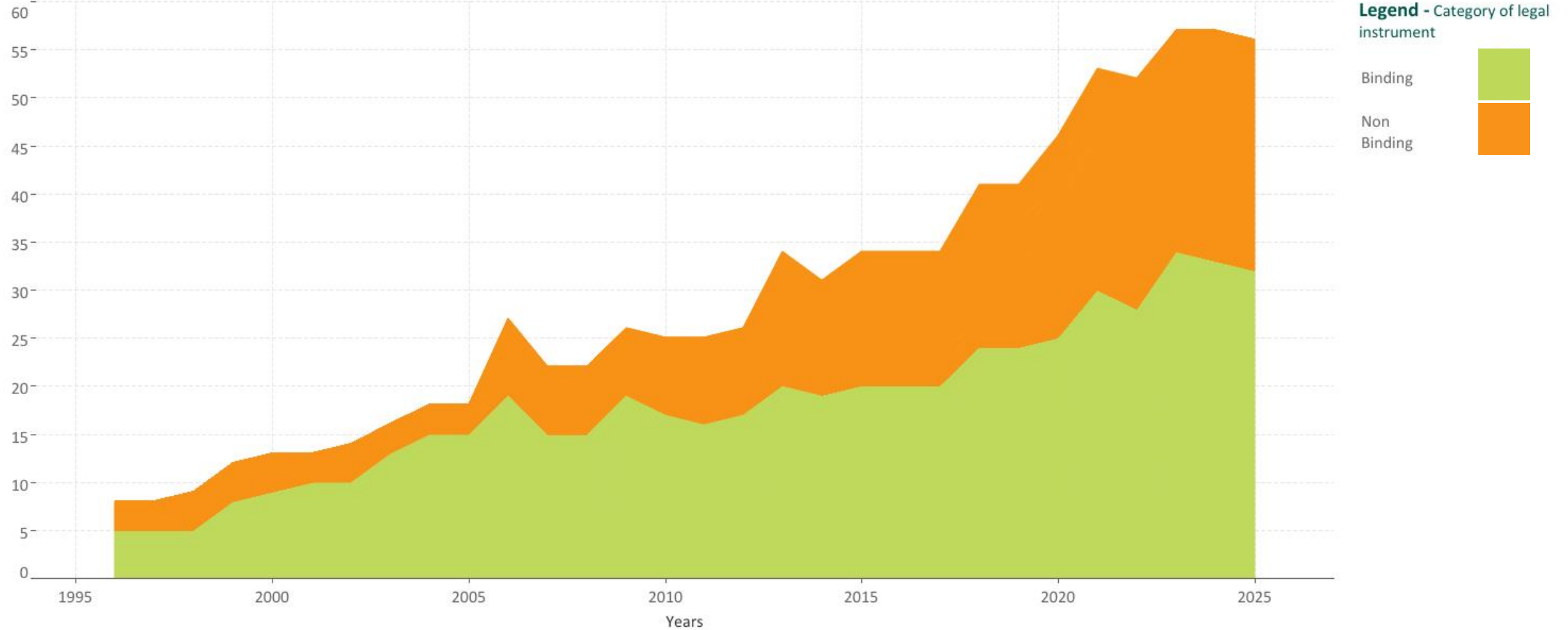
**Panel 2: Harmonised forest monitoring –  
how to obtain the best data for sustainable forest management?**

ENVI-AGRI joint Public Hearing on Forest Monitoring for resilient European Forests  
*13 January 2025*

*F.-P. Langué, CEPF Secretary General*

# What are the forest-related policies in-force yearly?

# of 'active' policies



**Note :**

- This compilation might not be fully exhaustive and will be gradually updated;
- The year of adoption is the year when a law, policy, or treaty was adopted, not when it became effective to EU of its Member States;
- The year to is the year when a policy was amended, repealed, or expired;
- The ranking on the relative relevance for forest and forestry, and for the forest-based sector reflects subjective assessment.

# European Forest Owners' concerns around 3 questions

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- 1) Who needs European Forest Monitoring?
- 2) What is the actual purpose of the proposal?
- 3) Does the proposal build on existing efforts?



# Who needs European forest monitoring?



# Who needs European Forest Monitoring?

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## Not the forest owners

They need to monitor the parameters relevant for the management of their forests.

Such monitoring can only be designed at local level, which is already the case today.

The best data for managing forests **will not come** from a European forest monitoring.



# Who needs European Forest Monitoring?

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## Policy makers

They need low spatial resolution to monitor large scale status and trends relevant for policy.

This monitoring would need data: **collected by** and **aggregated by Member States**  
➔ not the approach taken in the proposal

At the same time aggregation ensures:

- Limited risks of mistakes and misinterpretation,
- Data confidentiality and business secrecy.



What is the  
actual purpose  
of the  
Regulation?



# What is the actual purpose of the proposal ?

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- Unclear purpose:
  - Collecting data will not make forest more resilient *per se*
  - Intentions and plans: how and what for the collected data will be used?
- What is needed: Right information, at the right level, for the right purpose
- Possible purpose:
  - Enhance cooperation among Member States on data harmonisation and further development of national forest inventories
  - Support to implement existing EU legislations





**Does the  
proposal build  
on existing  
efforts?**



# Does the proposal build on existing efforts?

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## 1) Lack of coherence with existing EU legislations

### EC proposal – tree species **composition and richness**

**Description:** **number of individuals** per tree species (or lower taxonomic ranks, where relevant) in a given forest area.

**Spatial resolution:** **monitoring site level**

**Minimum frequency of data collection and sharing:** **5 years.**

### Nature Restoration Law requirement – tree species **diversity**

**Description:** This indicator describes the **mean number** of tree species occurring in forest areas.

**Unit:** **Index at national level.**

**Frequency:** **6 years**

**Methodology:** Based on FOREST EUROPE (...), and in the description of national forest inventories (...)

# Does the proposal build on existing efforts?

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- 2) Lack of coherence between the proposal and existing national forest monitoring
- 3) Legislative timing excludes outcomes of ongoing EU-funded research projects
  - E.g. [MoniFun](#), [Pathfinder](#), [ForestPaths](#), [Forwards](#), ...

➔ Timing and approach of the proposal?



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

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**Don't build a treehouse before the tree grows**



**Thank you for your attention.**



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Confederation of European Forest Owners