



European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Annual Forum

MINUTES

December 10, 2020: Session 15:25-16:25

WORKSHOP 3 —Multifunctional alpine forests: what uses, what conflicts?

Welcome of the participants by the moderator, Raimund Brecher, from the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, who briefly raises the issues related to global warming: What are the peculiarities of multifunctional alpine forests? What interests and what solutions? What is our vision for these forests in the next 10 to 30 years? How to work with the forestry sector?

The floor is given to Marco Onida, from DG Regio and Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, who presents the state of play of the new EU forestry strategy, as part of the European Green Pact. He insists on several points:

- Preservation of forests and their resilience. This requires in particular a more complete mapping
- The challenges of reforestation with the objective of 3 billion trees planted, which must be promoted through various EU instruments (CAP, cohesion fund, LIFE, etc.)
- The use of forest biomass for energy production

Following, Natalie Hufnagl-Jovy, Secretary General of CEPF (European Confederation of Forest Owners), shows the evolution of European policy and the progressive taking into account of the multifunctionality of forests. The 21st century will be the century of wood. There is potential for innovation in this direction, especially in the use of non-wooded forest products, which should be used more in the fight against CO2 emissions.

Klaus Pukall, Lecturer-researcher at the Technical University of Munich takes the floor to present the ARPAF project "REDIAFOR". One of the main tasks was to carry out an online survey in the 50 Alpine regions. There were over 600 responses. The results of the survey showed the importance of political strategies and the sharing of good practices within the EUSALP, in order to manage the divergent interests that appear in the various regional forest policies.

Frédéric BERGER, Head of the research team at INRAE, underlines the dynamism that research has had on the role of forests for twenty years, in particular in Alpine countries.



Their protective role against major risks must be emphasized and this is the objective of the Interreg project “Rock the Alps” and the Alpine Space projects “GreenRisks4Alps” and “Alptrees”. The protective potential of forests must be developed through common databases and allocation of larger funds.

Christian HOFFMANN, Researcher at the Eurac Research laboratory, announces the creation of a task force on multifunctional forestry which brings together five EUSALP action groups. This task force works in particular on the effects of the climate crisis on forests, which is a major issue. He concludes by emphasizing the importance of cross-cooperation between these five action groups in order to highlight opportunities, discover the potential of innovation, and raise awareness among governments about threats and opportunities stemming from natural perturbations.

