Support for implementing the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030

Questionnaire to support the Study on progress of the EU Forest Strategy implementation



milieu
Law & Policy Consulting

Introduction to the questionnaire

OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

This questionnaire aims to collect information for an overview study by Milieu Consulting to support the European Commission in assessing progress of the implementation of the new EU Forest Strategy 2030. The study will provide factual information on the state of play of its implementation, including examples of what Member States or stakeholders did to implement the Strategy or to pursue its objectives. The study will provide information to the Commission for the review of the strategy to assess progress and whether further action is needed to meet its objectives in line with the EU Forest Strategy for 2030.

The EU Forest Strategy 2030 establishes an overarching objective 'to set a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience'. It contributes to achieving the EU's biodiversity objectives as well as a GHG emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. The Strategy recognises the central and multi-functional role of forests and the contribution of foresters and the entire forest-based value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy while ensuring that all ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

We are sending this survey to national authorities with responsibilities relating to forests and/or nature and to stakeholders involved in activities linked to the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy inviting them to provide feedback to the different questions as applicable to them. National authorities are welcome to take account of regional and local experience or competence as relevant in their Member State. We are interested in receiving input on measures implementing the objectives of the EU Forest Strategy, including supporting forest-based economic activities and rural development within ecological limits, contributing to forest protection, restoration and expansion, and promoting climate resilience and biodiversity.

RESPONDING TO THE SURVEY

We kindly ask you to, please, fill in the questionnaire by the **20 November 2025**.

While the questionnaire starts with specific questions linked to certain thematic objectives of the EU Strategy, the section at the end of the questionnaire, provides an opportunity to add any information you may consider relevant to the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy, and which might not be covered by the previous questions.

The questionnaire combines tick boxes with open text fields to enable you to qualify your answers and provide concrete evidence. It is available in word format in English and can be made available in other EU languages upon request. You may respond in English or in your national language. We can also set up a Microsoft Teams if you prefer to reply by interview.

For any request you may have and sending your answers in written as attachment by email, please use: euforeststrategy2030@milieu.be AND per.lundberg@milieu.be

Please state 'EUFS implementation questionnaire' in the subject line.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Any personal data that you provide when answering this survey will **only be used for the purpose of conducting the study as set out in the privacy statement.**

Please be reassured that any personal data you provide will be treated in conformity with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection

of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data and where applicable with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR).

For more information on the processing of your personal data, **please read the privacy statement in the Annex to this document.** The privacy statement is based on the European Commission's generic privacy statement template.

☒ By checking this box, I confirm that I have read the specific European Commission Privacy Statement and agree with the processing of my personal data for the purposes stated therein.

PUBLICATION OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that your views and opinions will not be referred to in an identifiable manner but could be included in the published report in the form of a generic reference.

Please indicate if you consent to having your views and opinions referenced in a generic way in this study, which may be subject to publication, linking them to your organisation, but without any reference to you as an individual (your name and position within the organisation):

☒ By checking this box, I acknowledge that my views will be shared with the European Commission and may be published with information concerning the country, name and type of the organisation that I represent, to which I hereby give my consent.

Please note that questionnaire with your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under Regulation (EC) N°1049/2001.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

Please indicate your affiliation (National authority or type of organisation you represent):

Business Association

Please indicate country:

Belgium

Please indicate the name of your authority or organisation:

European Panel Federation

Please indicate your name and role within your authority organisation:

Alexis Kuhl, Senior Adviser, Climate & Environment

Please share your email address so we can reach you with any additional questions:

Alexis.kuhl@europanels.org

Specific questions

SUPPORTING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS FOR THRIVING RURAL AREAS AND BOOSTING FOREST-BASED BIO-ECONOMY WITHIN SUSTAINABILITY BOUNDARIES

Promoting circular economy, sustainable forest bioeconomy for long-lived wood products

1. *Is the cascading principle[1] and the circular economy approach, optimising the use of wood, implemented in your Member State / Organisation?*

   ☒ Yes / ☐ No / ☐ I do not know

   In which sectors and how is the cascading principle implemented?

The cascading use principle and the circular economy approach are only partially implemented across the EU but not yet in a sufficiently harmonised or effective way. Implementation remains fragmented, with considerable differences between Member States and sectors. In many cases, policies and subsidies prioritising energy generation from biomass still compete with material uses of wood, which undermines circularity objectives and the efficient use of resources.

For the wood-based panels industry, full application of the cascading principle is essential. Panels extend the lifespan of carbon stored in wood by decades and enable further recycling at the end of product life, thereby maximising both environmental and economic value. However, a lack of consistent enforcement of the principle across EU energy, waste legislations and the bioeconomy often results in high-quality post-consumer wood being diverted prematurely to energy recovery rather than recycled into new materials.

To optimise the use of wood, EU and national frameworks should ensure that biomass is used first for long-lived, high-value material applications and only subsequently for energy recovery when no other use is feasible. This requires coherence between renewable energy policies (notably RED III), waste legislation, product standards and public procurement rules. Stronger incentives for collection, sorting and recycling of wood waste, combined with harmonised EU standards for recycled wood, are key to operationalising the cascading principle.

In summary, while the concept is recognised at EU level, its implementation remains inconsistent. A stronger, binding and cross-sectoral application is vital to deliver a truly circular and resource-efficient circular bioeconomy.

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

2. Are there any initiatives at national or regional level promoting the use of wood construction products (for example, in buildings)?

   ☒ Yes / ☐ No / ☐ I do not know

   Please specify and provide examples:

Several national and regional initiatives across Europe actively promote the use of wood in construction, though their scope and ambition vary significantly between Member States. A coherent EU-wide framework recognising the carbon storage and substitution benefits of wood

[1] The cascading principle was already enshrined in the EU Forest Strategy 2014-2020. Under this principle, wood is used in the following order of priorities: 1) wood-based products, 2) extending their service life, 3) re-use, 4) recycling, 5) bio-energy and 6) disposal.

construction, integrated into building legislation, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and green public procurement, would significantly strengthen these efforts and accelerate the transition towards climate-neutral, circular buildings.

Moreover, these initiatives should also promote wood-based off-site modular construction, which allows rapid, high-quality and low-carbon building assembly while minimising waste and emissions. This approach aligns with circular economy principles by optimising resource efficiency and facilitating reuse or recycling at end of life.

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Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

3. What is the current market share in your Member State of wood products used in building material?

Less than 3% EU-wide.

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Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Has it changed since the adoption of the EU Forest Strategy?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, in what direction (increased or decreased)? Have there been any challenges? Please specify and provide examples:

_____

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

4. Does your Member State or region have a registry for certification of carbon removal (tree planting) actions?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify:

_____

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

- *If no, is there any action to initiate a carbon removal certification framework at national, regional or local level?*

  ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

- *If yes, please specify, including the scope:*

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Is there any link between the national and regional registries or any plan to link the registries?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Ensuring sustainable use of wood-based resources for bioenergy

5. Are the sustainability criteria for bioenergy (RED III) supported by national financial schemes?

   ☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

   Please specify:

The sustainability criteria for bioenergy under RED III are applied to varying degrees across Member States, but their linkage with national financial schemes remains inconsistent. In several cases, bioenergy still benefits from subsidies or support mechanisms that do not fully reflect the cascading use principle or carbon efficiency.

It is essential to further strengthen sustainability criteria for bioenergy to ensure that support measures align with EU climate and circular economy objectives. Public funding should be directed only to bioenergy sources that truly deliver additional greenhouse gas savings and do not compete with high-value material uses of biomass.

In particular, subsidies for the early combustion of quality wood, which could otherwise be used for durable material applications such as wood-based panels, should be phased out. Maintaining such incentives risks distorting markets, increasing carbon opportunity costs, and undermining resource efficiency.

Moreover, strengthening monitoring, reporting, and verification mechanisms would also improve transparency and prevent double counting or misuse of primary biomass.

In summary, aligning national financial support with stricter sustainability criteria and phasing out subsidies for unsustainable bioenergy pathways are necessary steps to ensure a genuinely circular and climate-effective bioeconomy.

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Promoting non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism

6. Are there any national or sub-national programs on the sustainable production of non-wood forest products?

   ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

   If yes, for which non-wood forest products? Please provide examples:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

7. Are there any national or sub-national programs promoting the sustainable production of non-wood forest products particularly in protected areas or Natura 2000 areas?

   ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

   Please specify:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy

8. Are there any life-long programmes or initiatives to advice foresters and adapt education and training to the current challenges like climate change impacts, forest adaptation to climate change, and increasing and diversifying demands for forest ecosystem services and products?

   ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

   If yes, please specify:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

PROTECTING, RESTORING AND ENLARGING EU'S FORESTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, REVERSE BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENSURE RESILIENT AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests

9. Has your Member State decided on a formal definition of primary and/or old-growth forests?

   ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

10. Has your Member State undertaken a mapping exercise for the identification of primary and old-growth forests?

    ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

11. If yes, to what extent is the definition and methodology adopted for the purpose of the national mapping exercise aligned with the definitions and criteria in the Commission guidelines for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

12. What is the protection granted to primary and/or old growth forest in your country/region?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience

13. Has your Member State adopted any measures or initiatives to ensure forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

14. Is your Member State / Organisation making use of EU/national closer to nature forest guidelines or applying closer to nature forestry practices?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify:

- Is this a requirement under national/regional legislation? ☐ Yes / ☐ No
- Is this a target in national or regional strategies? ☐ Yes / ☐ No
- To what extent is it applied in practice and how?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

15. Are there relevant examples of forest ecosystem restoration?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

16. Has your Member State an active approach in promoting nurseries and production of adequate quantities of forest reproductive material, taking also account of climate change and biodiversity needs?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

17. Has your Member State monitoring practices enabling an assessment of the impact of invasive alien species, diseases and pests?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify and provide examples:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

18. Has your Member State a framework for preventive actions and early detection and eradication?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please specify and provide examples:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Re- and afforestation of biodiverse forests

19. Has your Member State / Organisation adopted a tree planting pledge with biodiversity/climate change objectives?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

20. Has your Member State / Organisation taken any actions to promote participation in the EU 3BT Pledge?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

21. Has your Member State / Organisation made use of the guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting or implemented biodiversity friendly afforestation or tree planning initiatives?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Financial incentives for forest owners / managers for improving the quantity and quality of EU forests

22. Has your Member State / Organisation set up any payment scheme(s) for forest ecosystem services?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe the financial mechanism:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

23. Has your Member State / Organisation made use of the European Commission Guidance on the Development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please specify how:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

24. Does your Member State / Organisation support forest owners and managers through financing, advise, or training to strengthen forest protection and restoration and apply more biodiversity-friendly sustainable management?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

25. Does your Member State make use and promote the use of EU financial instruments for forests and forestry?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

26. Has your Member State granted State aid for forestry measures aiming to promote SFM and ecosystem services?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

A STRONG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA TO IMPROVE OUR KNOWLEDGE ON FORESTS

27. Is your Member State / Organisation participating in research and innovation to improve knowledge exchange, cooperation, education, and training on forests, SFM practices and unlock the socio-economic and environment potential of forests in rural areas?

☐ Yes / ☒ No / ☐ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

28. Did your Member State promote research and innovation on architecture, design and materials of long-lasting wood material if applicable, also via demonstration projects through Horizon Europe, the LIFE program and the Innovation Fund?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes, please describe:

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

INCLUSIVE AND COHERENT EU FOREST GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

29. Does your Member State have a Forest Advisory Service to support forest owners and forest managers?

☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☒ I do not know

If yes:

- Is it free of charge? ☐ Yes / ☐ No / ☐ I do not know
- When was it established?
- How does it provide its advice?
- How is it promoted among forest owners/managers?

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

General section

GENERAL SECTION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU FOREST STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

30. Overall, how does your Member State / Organisation contribute to the implementation of the EUFS and meeting its objectives. Please describe your most significant contributions if applicable?

The European Panel Federation (EPF) contributes actively to the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy (EUFS) by representing Europe's wood-based panels industry, a key enabler of the circular bioeconomy and sustainable forest value chains.

EPF promotes the cascading use of wood, ensuring that harvested timber is used first for long-lived, high-value material applications (such as packaging, furniture and buildings) before energy recovery. This approach maximises carbon storage, resource efficiency, and substitution effects, directly supporting the EUFS objectives on sustainable forest management, carbon neutrality, and circularity.

EPF also fosters wood recycling and the development of a Single Market for secondary raw materials, coordinating with EU institutions and standardisation bodies to remove regulatory barriers and harmonise acceptance criteria for post-consumer wood. Through its participation in EU-funded projects such as *EcoReFibre* and *CISUFLO*, EPF advances innovation in wood fibre recovery, circular design, and life-cycle optimisation.

Furthermore, EPF provides data, policy input and advocacy to ensure that EU policies (including RED III, CRCF, the update of the Bioeocnomy Strategy and the forthcoming Circular Economy Act) reflect the material and climate value of wood-based products. The federation also works closely with partners across the forest-based value chain to promote coherent implementation of the EUFS.

Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

31. What's your Member State's / Organisaton's response to the need to ensure that forests contribute to achieving a sustainable and climate-neutral economy while ensuring that all ecosystems are restored resilient and adequately protected (including for products and services beyond wood)?

EPF fully supports the objective of ensuring that Europe's forests contribute to a sustainable and climate-neutral economy while safeguarding biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, and the multifunctional role of forests.

EPF believes that sustainable forest management is important for achieving these goals. Active management ensures forest regeneration, health, and adaptation to climate change, while enabling a continuous supply of renewable raw materials. Properly managed forests deliver multiple ecosystem services (including carbon storage, biodiversity, water regulation, recreation) alongside wood production for circular, low-carbon renewable materials.

EPF's members transform sustainably sourced wood into long-lived products such as particleboard, MDF, OSB and fibreboard, which store carbon for decades and substitute carbon-intensive materials in construction, furniture and packaging. This contributes directly to EU climate neutrality and resource efficiency. By promoting wood recycling and secondary raw material use, EPF extends the life of forest carbon and reduces pressure on primary resources.

EPF also advocates for policy coherence between forest, climate, energy, and circular economy

legislation, to ensure that the cascading use of biomass is respected and that wood is prioritised for high-value material uses before energy recovery. In addition, EPF supports innovation and R&I projects improving circularity, waste reduction, and sustainable sourcing practices.

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Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

32. If applicable; how have you taken the EU Forest Strategy 2030 into account when formulating national policies relevant to forests?

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Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

33. Do you consider that any further (national and/or EU-level) action is needed to meet the EU Forest Strategy objectives by 2030?

Achieving the EU Forest Strategy objectives by 2030 requires the full implementation of the cascading use principle and the phasing-out of subsidies for bioenergy that compete with material uses of wood. It is essential to ensure that the growing and increasingly diversified demand for woody biomass, including for new uses such as bioenergy, biochemicals, or bioplastics, does not undermine feedstock (including industrial by-products) availability for traditional material uses. Long-lived material products such as wood-based panels deliver superior carbon storage and resource efficiency benefits and serve as stable value-added demand drivers within the bioeconomy

The importance of strengthening circularity is further underlined by the EPF policy paper *"Strategic Wood Availability"*, which shows that Europe faces a growing structural gap between future wood demand and sustainable domestic supply. The study highlights that without a significant increase in recycling, reuse, and efficient cascading use, rising pressure from multiple competing sectors will exacerbate shortages and undermine both climate and industrial objectives. Reinforcing circularity is therefore essential not only for resource efficiency but also to secure long-term wood availability for high-value material uses, including wood-based panels.

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Please limit your answer to no more than 250 words. If necessary, please complement your answers with links or pdf attachments to your email.

Annex: Privacy statement



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Processing operation: Processing of personal data linked to surveys

Data Controller: European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Unit Land Use & Management.

Data Processor: Milieu Consulting SRL

Record reference: DPR-EC-01011.4

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1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data in the context of a (type of a) meeting or event, organised by the European Commission. It explains the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, the Data Protection Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The information in relation to the processing of personal data linked to targeted consultation activities (including surveys, interviews and focus groups), is presented below.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operation: the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Unit Land Use & Management and Milieu Consulting SRL collect and further process your personal data within the framework of targeted consultation activities to obtain your views on a specific initiative, policy or intervention.

You are being contacted by Milieu Consulting SPRL or members of its consortium (incl IEEP, Ecologic and Stritih) which consider that your views are relevant and necessary to inform the project "Support for implementing the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030" under which this targeted consultation is carried out.

Milieu Consulting SRL and its Consortium Members have collected your contact details through previous consultations and desk research from the internet where they have been manifestly made public by you or the organisation you work for. You have been identified by Milieu Consulting SRL as a stakeholder whose views are relevant and necessary to achieve the specific purpose of the targeted consultation activity in the public interest as described below. Your participation in the targeted consultation activity is completely voluntary.

More specifically, the processing operation concerns the following processing activities and purposes:

- This questionnaire aims to collect information for an overview study on the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy. The study will provide factual information on the state of play of its implementation, including examples of initiatives adopted by Member States, regional and local authorities and contributing to meeting its objectives. This information will support the Commission in the review process as to whether further action is needed to meet the strategy's objectives. It is indispensable for the Commission to receive input and views from those who are considered to be concerned by those actions.

In addition, Milieu Consulting SRL and the European Commission may add your organisation to the mailing list for future consultations and invitations to events. Upon your consent, we will also process and add to this list your name and surname as well as your e-mail address.

Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data?

We process your personal data, because:

(a) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest;

(b) it is based on your consent, for one or more specified purposes:

- If the subject matter of a targeted consultation requires respondents to provide personal data in their response that make the data subject identifiable;
- to be contacted by the Commission or by Milieu Consulting to clarify information in relation to the present consultation.

The Union law which is the basis for the processing based on Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is the Treaty of the European Union, and more specifically its Articles 1 and 11, Article 298 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, read in conjunction with Recital 22 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), as well as the Protocol 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out this processing operation, Milieu Consulting SRL, on behalf and for account of the European Commission, collects the following categories of personal data:

- *name and surname,*
- *profession or position in the organisation,*
- *country of residence,*
- *e-mail address of the respondent,*
- *the name of a self-employed individual (natural persons) on whose behalf the respondent is contributing,*
- *personal data included in the response or contribution to the targeted consultation activity, including (personal) opinions,*

Furthermore, you may spontaneously provide other, non-requested personal data in the context of your reply to the targeted consultation.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller and Data Processor only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing.

For each of the categories of personal data that may be processed, please find below the retention details and the reference to the relevant record of processing:

- Personal data related to targeted consultation activities (including surveys, interviews and focus groups) will be kept for no more than **5 years** after the closure of the file. For more information see the record reference DPR-EC-01011.4
- Personal data shared with the controller for future mailing purposes (e.g., for receiving newsletters or invitations to similar events) are processed in line with the Record of Processing DPR-EC-03928 (Management of subscriptions to receive information) and the specific privacy statement prepared by the organising Commission service.
- Personal data shared with the controller for the purpose of the contact list to be published on the Commission's website will be kept for **3 years**.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the Commission and Milieu Consulting SRL. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

The Commission's processor, Milieu Consulting SRL, is bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your personal data on behalf of the Commission. The processor has to put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the level of security, required by the Commission.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data is provided to the Commission staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Cookies *(if they are used, this will be explained in the specific privacy statement of the survey programme used for this consultation)*

Cookies are short text files stored on a user's device (such as a computer, tablet or phone) by a website. Cookies are used for the technical functioning of a website (functional cookies) or for gathering statistics (analytical cookies).

Enabling these cookies is not strictly necessary for the website to work but it will provide you with a better browsing experience. You can delete or block these cookies, but if you do that, some features of the meeting/event website may not work as intended.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a 'data subject' under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Where applicable, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing, and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, which is lawfully carried out pursuant to Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on grounds relating to your particular situation.

The Commission will ensure that the data subjects can exercise their right to object to processing whenever possible by the organisers of the meeting/event (on the spot, by attending the meeting without turning on their camera; or ex-post, by deleting a specific sequence from the online video/voice recording).

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

9. Contact information

- **The Data Controller**

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controller:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Unit Land Use & Management, at: env-d01-ares@ec.europa.eu.

- **The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- **The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the data controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the European Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: DPR-EC-01011.4.