

FOREST PROTECTION CONFERENCE
La Granja - Valsaín

FOREST PROTECTION IN THE EU: Social and economic impacts



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European Commission
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FOREST PROTECTION IN THE EU: Social and economic impacts

1. Background

2. Economic and social impacts of forests

3. Socioeconomic challenges

4. Conclusions



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1. Background



Green Paper on Forest Protection

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/forests_en.htm

« Forest protection in the EU should aim at ensuring that forests continue to perform all their **productive**, **socio-economic** and **environmental** functions in the future. »



1. Background



EU Major objectives in relation to forestry with socioeconomic relevance

- The promotion of the sustainable development of the EU forestry sector as a contribution to **rural development** and, in particular, to the creation and preservation of **jobs in rural areas**
- Enhancing the **sustainable forest management** within the framework of the **internal market** and contributing to the competitiveness of the EU **forest-based industries**
- Increasing the use of sustainably produced wood and other forest products, as **environment-friendly and climate-neutral sources of materials and renewable energy**

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2. Economic and social impacts of forests



**Forestry and Forest-based industries,
essential role in maintaining sustainable
employment in rural areas...**

**...but their importance is often
underestimated...**

- ➔ Main income from most forest holdings depends on wood production...
...but those working on forestry and woodworking are often self-employed
+ small enterprises activities frequently coupled with other economic sectors
- ➔ Difficult to say exactly how much primary biomass directly from forestry
used for energy purposes
- ➔ Lack of data on the contribution of non-wood products and services (that,
in some regions, provide more income than wood sales)

2. Economic and social impacts of forests



Some numbers:

3.6 million employees in the forestry sector, woodworking, pulp and paper and printing

- 0.5 million jobs directly related to forestry
- 1.5 million for the manufacture of wood and cork
- 0.7 million for the manufacture of pulp and paper
- 0.9 million for the printing sector

→ As important suppliers of biomass, agriculture and forestry roughly employ **200 000 people**

2. Economic and social impacts of forests: some numbers

Forest-based industries

€120 billion added-value

€402 billion turnover

3 million employees in 350 000 firms



Woodworking:
€37 billion added value
€134 billion turnover
197 000 firms



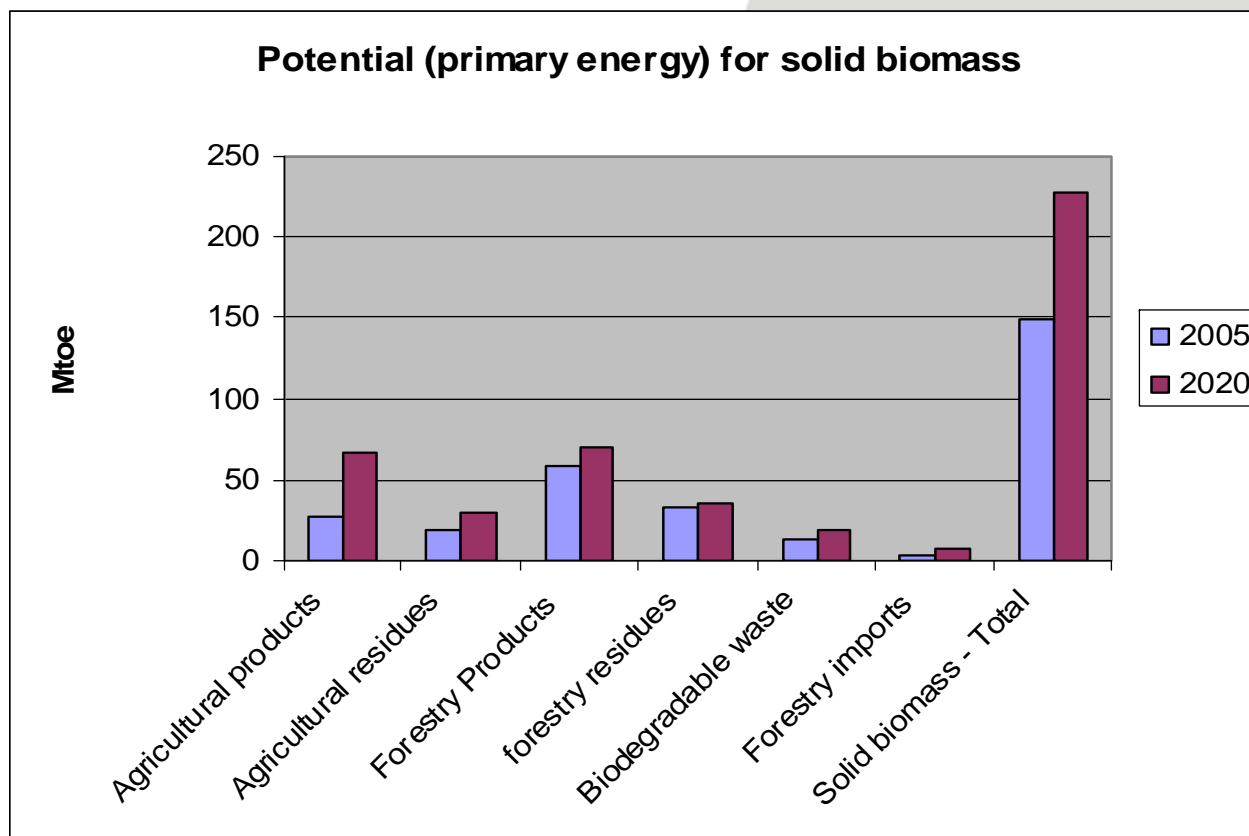
Pulp and paper:
€41 billion added value
€166 billion turnover
19 000 firms



Printing:
€42 billion added value
€106 billion turnover
133 000 firms

2. Economic and social impacts of forests: some numbers

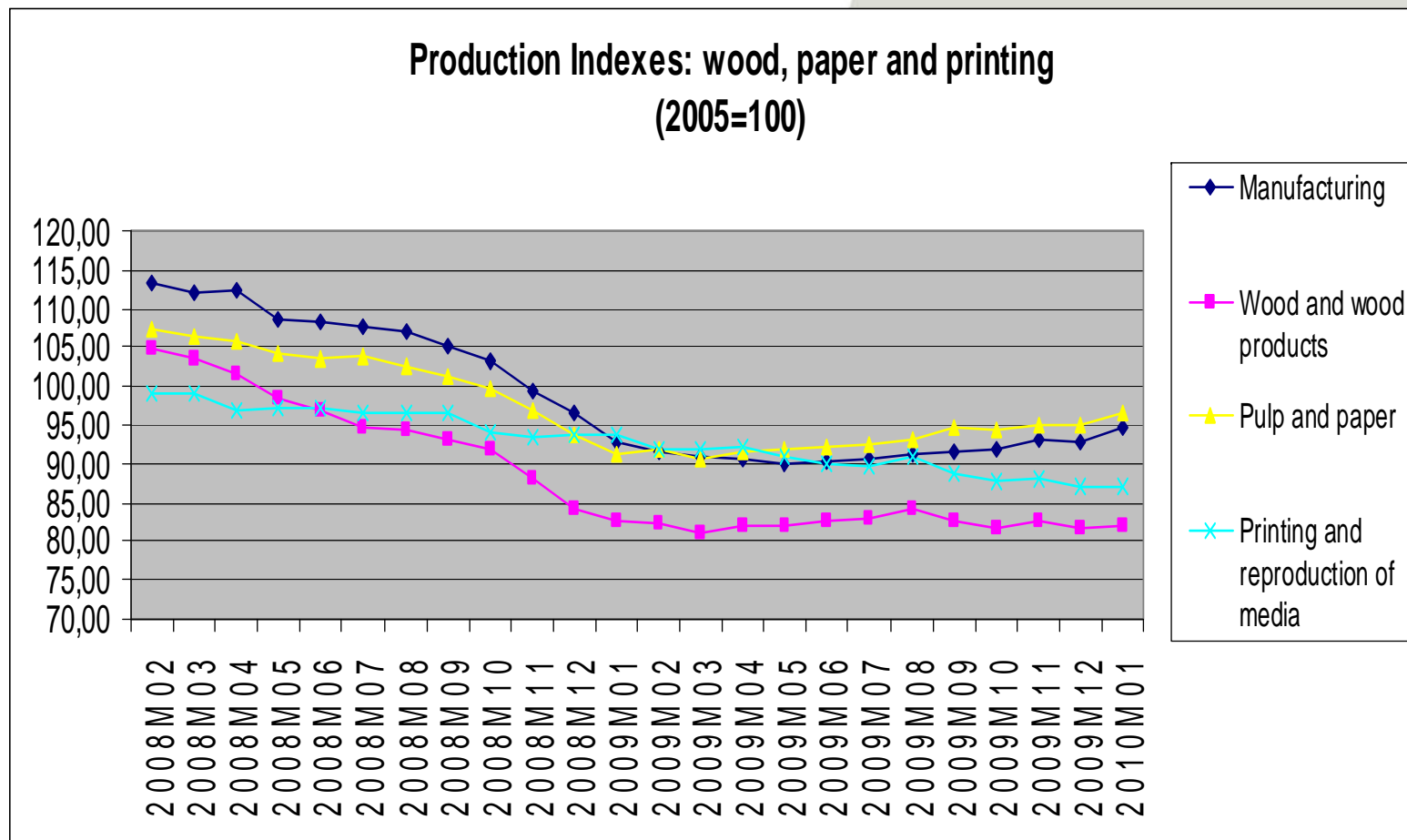
Forest biomass as an energy source



Source: SEC(2010) 65 Impact Assessment for the **sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling**

2. Economic and social impacts of forests: some numbers

Production index (2005 = 100)

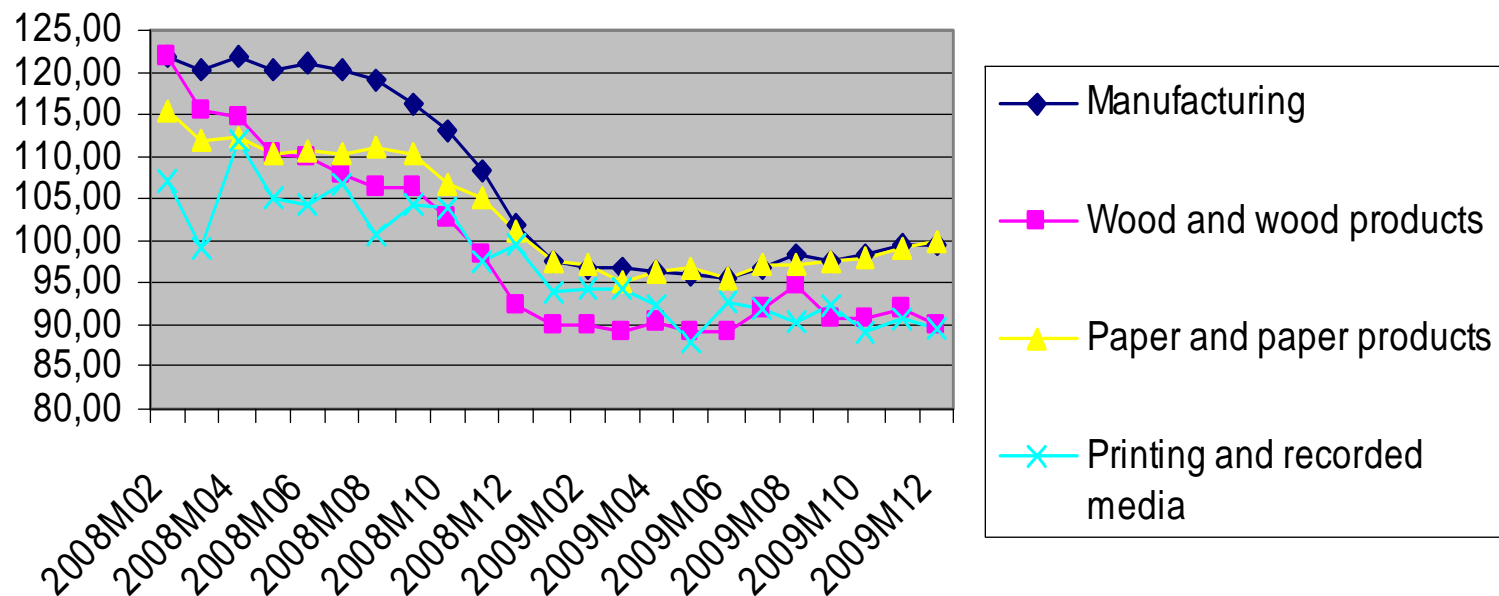


2. Economic and social impacts of forests: some numbers

Turnover index (2005 = 100)



Turnover Indexes: wood, paper and printing (2005=100)

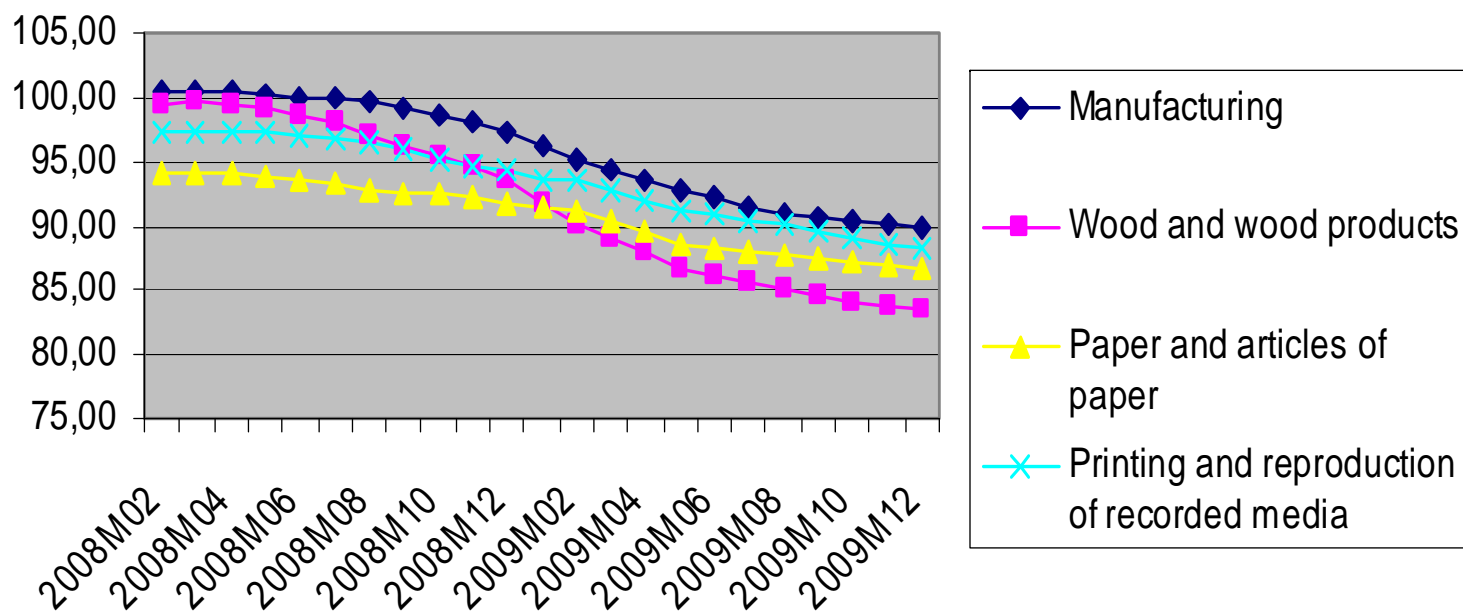


2. Economic and social impacts of forests: some numbers

Employment index (2005 =100)



Employment Indexes: wood, paper and printing (2005=100)



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3. Socioeconomic challenges



Policy documents:

- Forest Action Plan
- Innovative and Sustainable Forest-based industries
- Green Paper on Forest Protection

Forest protection and socio-economic challenges:

Jobs!

- Raw material
- Destructive storms and fires

3. Socioeconomic challenges



Raw Material:

- Average EU forest utilisation rate: 60%
- Forecasted to increase to 79-80% due to increased demand for wood products and bioenergy
- Potential to increase utilisation in most countries
- Many issues to be considered: sustainability, competitiveness of industries, efficiency, economic viability, fragmentation, organisation and motivation of forest owners

3. Socioeconomic challenges



Raw Material:

Maintaining the potential for sustainable wood supply will require

- Developing new domestic sources of wood (expansion of forested area)
- Mobilising more wood from existing domestic sources
- Increasing efficiency in the production and use of wood
- Increasing imports of wood raw material

3. Socioeconomic challenges



Destructive storms and fires:

Big environmental impact ..and also big socio-economic consequences

Issues to be considered:

- ➔ Reduction of income (drop in price of raw material)
- ➔ Distortion of wood markets
- ➔ Need to urgently put in place measures to extract the wood
- ➔ Need for quick restoration



Important to put prevention measures in place to reduce and limit the damages

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4. Conclusions



- **Forest protection has an important socio-economic component**
- A **competitive forestry** output enhances forest-based sector competitiveness and vice-versa
- **Socio-economic challenges, inter-linked to environmental ones:** raw material availability, storms, fires..
- **Prevention measures** will prepare forests and reduce and limit both the environmental and socioeconomic damages
- Need for Member States, Stakeholders and Commission to **work together** to protect forests and forest sector

Thank you for your attention!

Gracias por su atención!



http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/wood-paper-printing/index_fr.htm



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