

# Society, megatrends - and forests

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The Review of the EU Forest Strategy: Fostering policy coherence  
on the multifunctional role of forests, EP, Brussels

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# Global Megatrends

- Population growth
- Urbanisation
- Resource use
- Digitalisation
- Climate change
- Consumer behavior

*The role of forests ?*

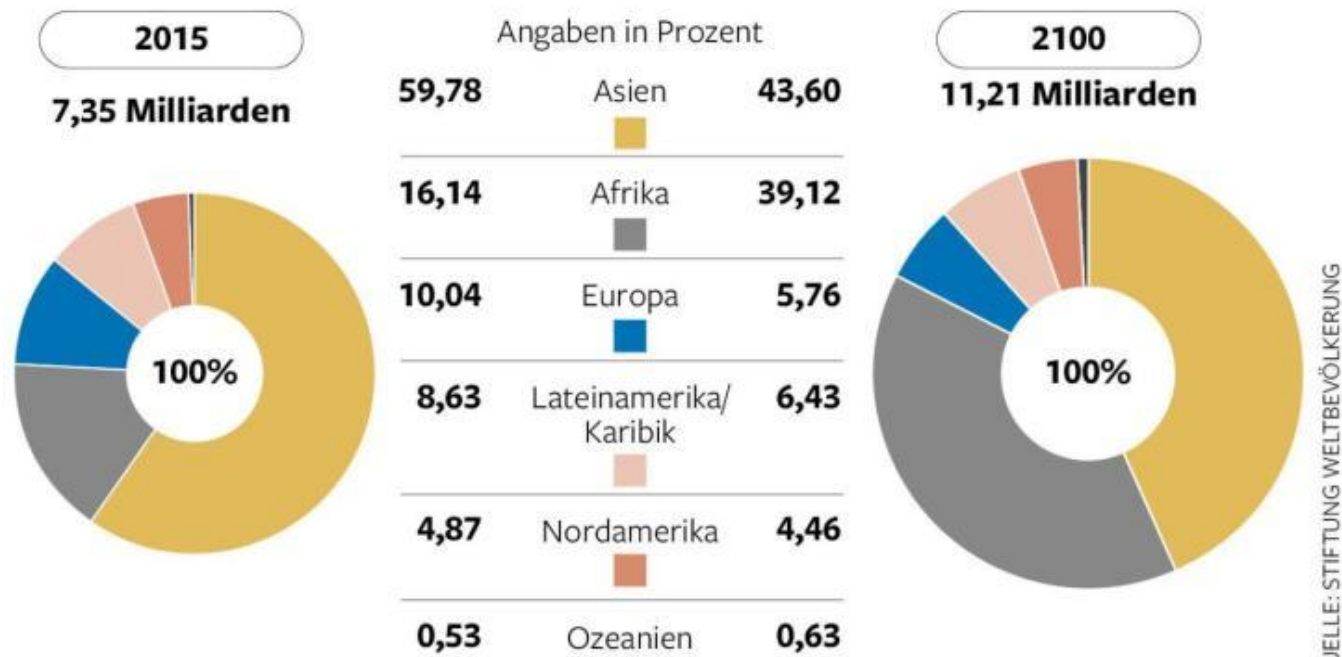


# Demographic trends

- Increasing world population
- Increasing lifespan and declining birth rate in Western societies
- Gender role
- Migration
- Better health



# Development of population



# Urbanisation

- Since 2008 more than half of the global population lives in cities
- 31 Megacities (> 10 Million inhabitants)
- In 2100 more than 70% of the global population will live in cities



# Digitalisation, Informatisation

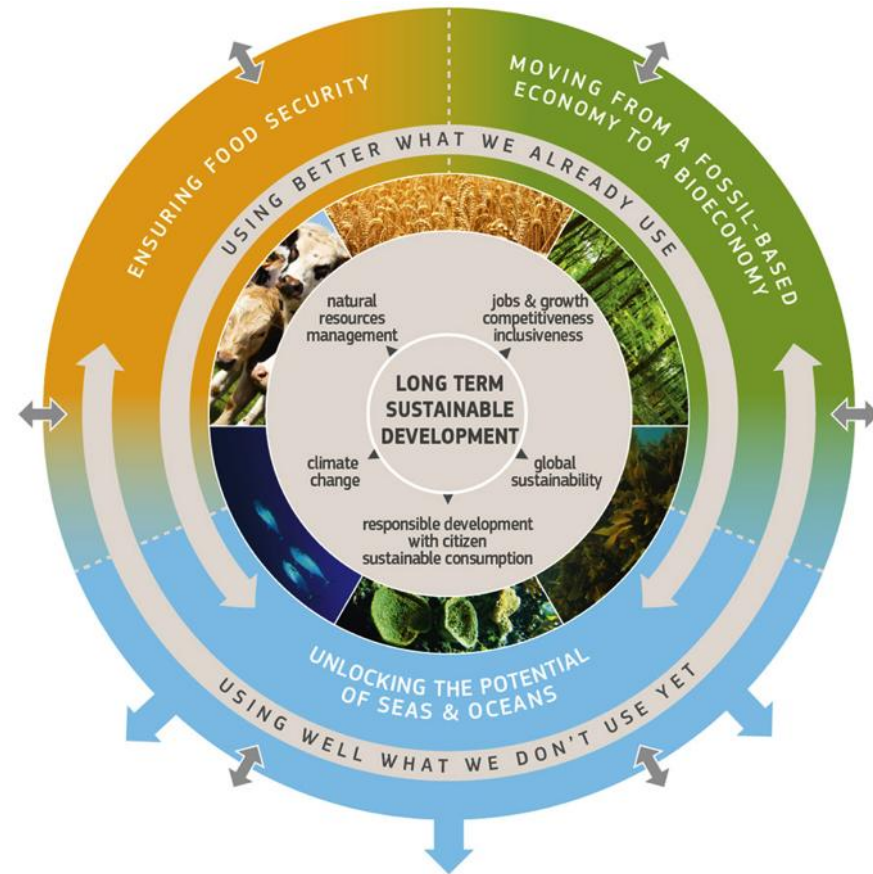
- Big Data
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Automation
- Augmented Reality
- Artificial Intelligence
- Industry 4.0
- Intelligent Materials
- Man-machine-interaction



# Resources and Consumption

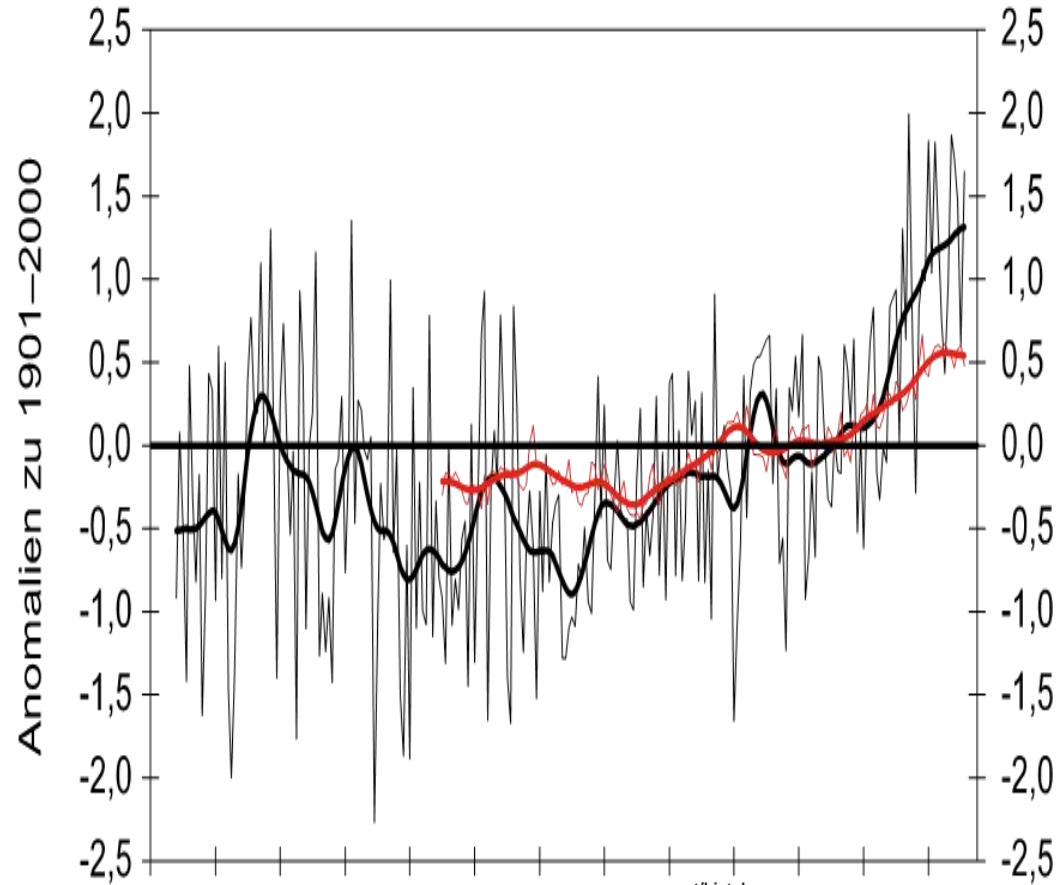
- Increasing demand on resources and energy - consumption patterns
- Loss of soil and biodiversity
- Emerging economies (China, India, Africa)
- Land use change - deforestation, illegal logging

*But: recycling, renewable energies, urban mining*



# Climate Change

- Global warming up to 4,8°C until 2100
- Mainly caused by the increased GHG content in the atmosphere by the use of fossil based energy





# Global Megatrends and forests



# Future of forests

## Innovation

- New technologies
- Computerbased modelling
- Digitalisation in forest technology
- Optimization in resource use and value chain



# Future of forests

## A modern society

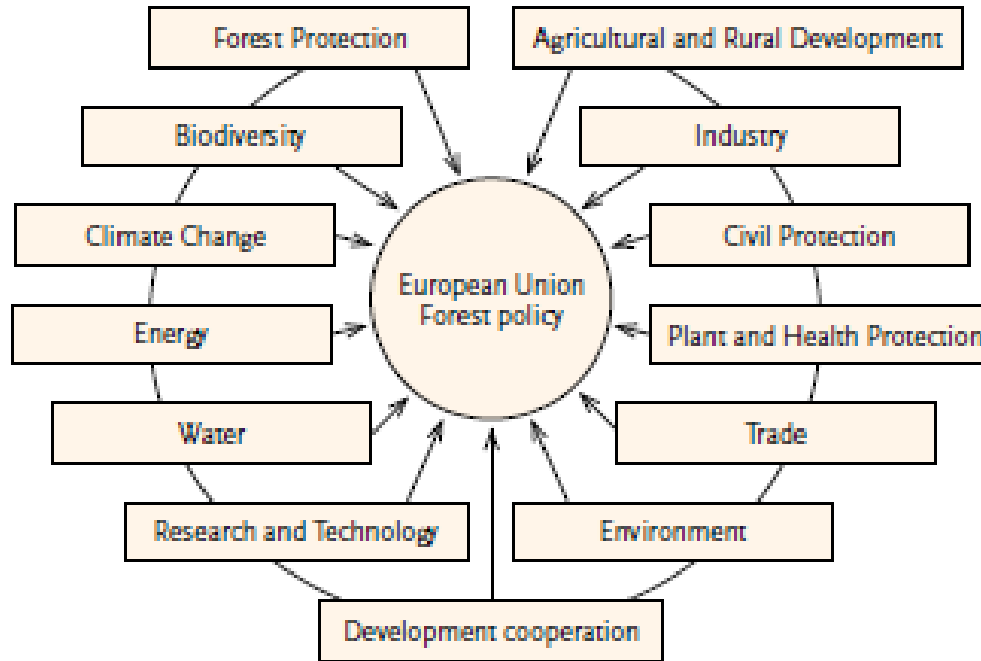
- Health and recreation in an urbanised and aging society
- Sustainability and multifunctional aspects to avoid resource over-use - SDG
- Bioeconomy and circular economy as bio-based concepts
- Green jobs



# Which way to go for the EU forest strategy?



# Forest policy in the EU



# Forest policy in the EU

- No single competence for forests within EU primary law
- Dense regulatory network has developed over time
- De-facto “decentralized” European forest policy exists
- However, objectives and targets are often contradictory / competing
  - Policy coherence problems
  - Lack of effective coordination mechanisms
  - Need to deal with trade-offs



# Priority areas of the EU Forest Strategy

- Sustainable forest management contributes to major societal objectives
- Improving the knowledge base
- **Fostering coordination and communication**
  - **Working together to coherently manage and better understand our forests**
  - **Forest from a global perspective**



# Governance approaches

<b>Governance by legislation</b>	<b>Governance by cooperation</b>	<b>Governance by soft modes</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inclusion of forest chapter in the Treaty of the EU</li> <li>2. Community method (framework directive EU)</li> <li>3. Enhanced cooperation (EU)</li> <li>4. Legally binding agreement for forests (pan-Europe)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interparliamentarian cooperation (EU)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open method of coordination</li> <li>2. Civil fora</li> <li>3. Collaborative policy dialogue</li> <li>4. Devolution to the sub-national</li> <li>5. Landscape approach</li> <li>6. Non-legally binding international forest strategy</li> </ol>



# Conclusion

- Megatrends shape societies
- Forests more important than ever for future societies – innovation and bio-based solutions
- Forests in the EU – new governance platform and/or mechanism could facilitate coherent forest related policies





Picture | Filmstyle from „See Aural Woods“ (Luma.Launisch & Takamovsky)

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