


Meeting with Metsä group

23 March 2021

Participants :

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- Cabinet Breton : Joan Canton, Eszter Batta

Summary of the discussions :

- Metsä Group presented the group, a Finnish cooperative, based on Finnish forest owners, employing 9000 people and operating in 8 EU countries, and its main activities.
- In particular, Metsä Group recalled its sustainable commitments, as summarised in the attached presentation. The presentation was also focused on the investment efforts of the company in sustainable activities.
- Regarding the EU policy framework, Metsä Group recalled the several relevant initiatives for their sector. In particular, they shared concerns on the taxonomy criteria applicable to forest owners. Metsä group considered that, while relevant at Member State level, the criteria would be very difficult to apply at forest level, creating challenges in terms of the usability of the criteria.
- Metsä group also sees the Forest Strategy under preparation as a possible governing strategy for forest management.
- Regarding the industrial strategy, Metsä Group saw it as requiring a good balance between the three pillars of sustainability. Finally, Metsä Group confirmed its involvement in the construction sector and the relevance for using wood material in construction.
- The Commission recalled the state of play in the preparation of the EU industrial strategy and the overall approach regarding the taxonomy.