

Cabinet of Commissioner Kadri SIMSON - Minutes of Meeting

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Title	Meeting (online) between Peeter Kadarik from Cabinet Simson and three Estonian ONGs (Eesti Erametsaliit, Eesti Metsa- ja Puidutööstuse Liit and Eesti Metsaselts)
Date	10-06-2022
Participants	<p>Ext : Participants from Estonian forest and timber industry – board members of Eesti Metsa- ja Puidutööstuse Liit and Eesti Erametsaliit, and members of Eesti Metsaselts</p> <p>Other presenters at the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [redacted] from the Estonian Ministry of Environment - [redacted] from the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications - [redacted] - [redacted] of the Estonian state administration <p>COM: Deputy Head of Cabinet Simson Mr Peeter Kadarik</p>
	Ares initial request : Ares(2023)3353127
	Disclosure authorization : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - <input type="checkbox"/> NO - <input type="checkbox"/> Partial (pls highlight unauthorized parts)
Issues raised & follow-up	<p>In the course of the training day involving speakers from Estonian public sector and representatives of the European Commission, an overview was given of EU policies influencing Estonian forest and timber industry.</p> <p>The Deputy Head of Energy Cabinet Mr Peeter Kadarik summarised the most important implications for the sector - in the Estonian and European context - of the Commission's REPowerEU package adopted on 18 May 2022 and share the latest regarding bioenergy.</p> <p>The bioenergy and biomass is a key source for renewables, but in view of the projected increase of biomass use, we have to ensure that it is used sustainable and in an efficient way. At the same time we need to protect European forests. To safeguard against the added risks from increased harvesting for energy, the Commission is proposing a targeted strengthening of the EU bioenergy sustainability criteria.</p> <p>Mr Kadarik also explained the logic of the cascading principle. It means that wood is first used where its economic and environmental value is highest. For example, first for construction and furniture; then in industry or recycling and only after that in bioenergy. By increasing biomass availability in the economy, cascading use aims to maximise the carbon mitigation potential of bio-economy while reducing pressures on the ecosystems.</p> <p>Representatives of Estonian forest and timber industry enquired about the ways of having a bigger say in forming these policies.</p>