

Question for written answer E-003291/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: The declining carbon capacity of EU forests

Published by *Nature* magazine¹, a recent study by scientists from the Commission's Joint Research Centre warns that, due to a rise in logging, forest fires, droughts and infestations, the net CO₂ uptake of forests in the EU averaged 332 million net tonnes per year between 2020 and 2022, down almost 33% from 2010-2014. The fact that EU forests are declining as carbon sinks could jeopardise the Union's 2050 climate goals and its efforts at achieving carbon neutrality.

In the light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the factors – which include fires, droughts, pests and intensive forest management – that are reducing the carbon capacity of EU forests?
2. What forestry policy measures – including climate-resilient management, ecological restoration and species diversification – will the Commission put forward to bolster the resilience of EU ecosystems?
3. How does the Commission assess the fact that the proposal for an EU forest monitoring law is being substantially weakened in Parliament and the Council – in line with what is advocated by conservative groups and Member States with a clear stake in forest industries – and what impact does it think that undermining this essential tool will have on achieving the Union's climate goals?

Submitted: 25.8.2025

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-025-08967-3>