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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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Availability of complete and reliable data on status and trends of forest health, resources and disturbances is key to support the development of a resilient and sustainable forest bioeconomy and achieving biodiversity and climate mitigation and resilience policy objectives and targets.

The forest monitoring law proposal¹ was intended to improve such data. However, since the European Parliament did not give this proposal the necessary support, the Commission announced its intention to withdraw the proposal. The Commission remains committed to a robust EU-wide knowledge base for effective and efficient action in response to growing pressures such as droughts, wildfires or pest outbreaks.

In line with the EU Forest Strategy for 2030², the Commission will strengthen the monitoring of climate effects and other natural or human induced disturbances on forests as part of the Forest Information System for Europe³. A forest science partnership has been set up to support the development of new methods for indicator monitoring based on remote sensing, with a focus on the existing EU policy framework. Furthermore, the Commission just published new guidelines to future-proof Natura 2000 sites against climate change⁴, and it plans to improve in its forthcoming European climate resilience framework⁵ the overall monitoring of progress towards climate resilience and adaptation. Yet, it is too early to tell whether this framework will include a specific focus on forests. Under Horizon Europe⁶, a co-funded research and innovation partnership on Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future⁷ has been proposed which will also support the improvement and alignment of forest monitoring in Europe.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-forest-monitoring-framework_en.

² https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/forest-strategy_en.

³ FISE : <https://forest.eea.europa.eu/>.

⁴ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/guidance-adapting-natura-2000-sites-climate-change_en.

⁵ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/adaptation-and-resilience-climate-change_en.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en.

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-15>.