



# Proposal for a Regulation: Monitoring Framework for resilient European Forests

LULUCF Workshop

23 May 2024

European Commission  
CLIMA C.3 Land Economy & Carbon Removals  
ENV D.1 Land Use & Management

# Why should the EU act?

Legal basis:  
environmental  
policy –  
art.192(1)  
TFEU

- ***Necessity of EU action***

**Forest monitoring is currently patchy and fragmented**, preventing timely UE action against cross-border stressors and threats and leveraging technological developments and digital innovation (esp. Earth Observation – EO).

- Scale and **crossborder** nature of the problem
- Impact on **citizens**, risks to the **economy** from growing disturbances
- Monitoring of the **effects** of **EU policies** and **anticipation** of the need for policy changes to achieve targets

- ***Added-value of EU action***

- **Tracking and preventing pressures** at a pan-European level (pests outbreaks, droughts, invasive species)
- **Consistency and economic efficiency** – check the viability, consistency and sustainability of forest-related policies at EU level, take advantage of the potential for cost-savings (EO), identification of future risks at a reduced costs
- **Facilitator for development of SMEs** related to digital transitions and **level-playing field for forests products from sustainably produced biomass** – rewarding foresters and land-managers implementing land management schemes co-benefiting climate, biodiversity and the bioeconomy.
- **Integrated and long-term planning approach** – better delivery on forest-related policies at EU level (bioeconomy, climate adaptation)



# Problem Definition

**Not all indicators needed are monitored**

**Data not always timely and reliable**

**Some data exist but not accessible**

**Data not comparable across the EU**

**Lack of long-term planning and vision for forest management**

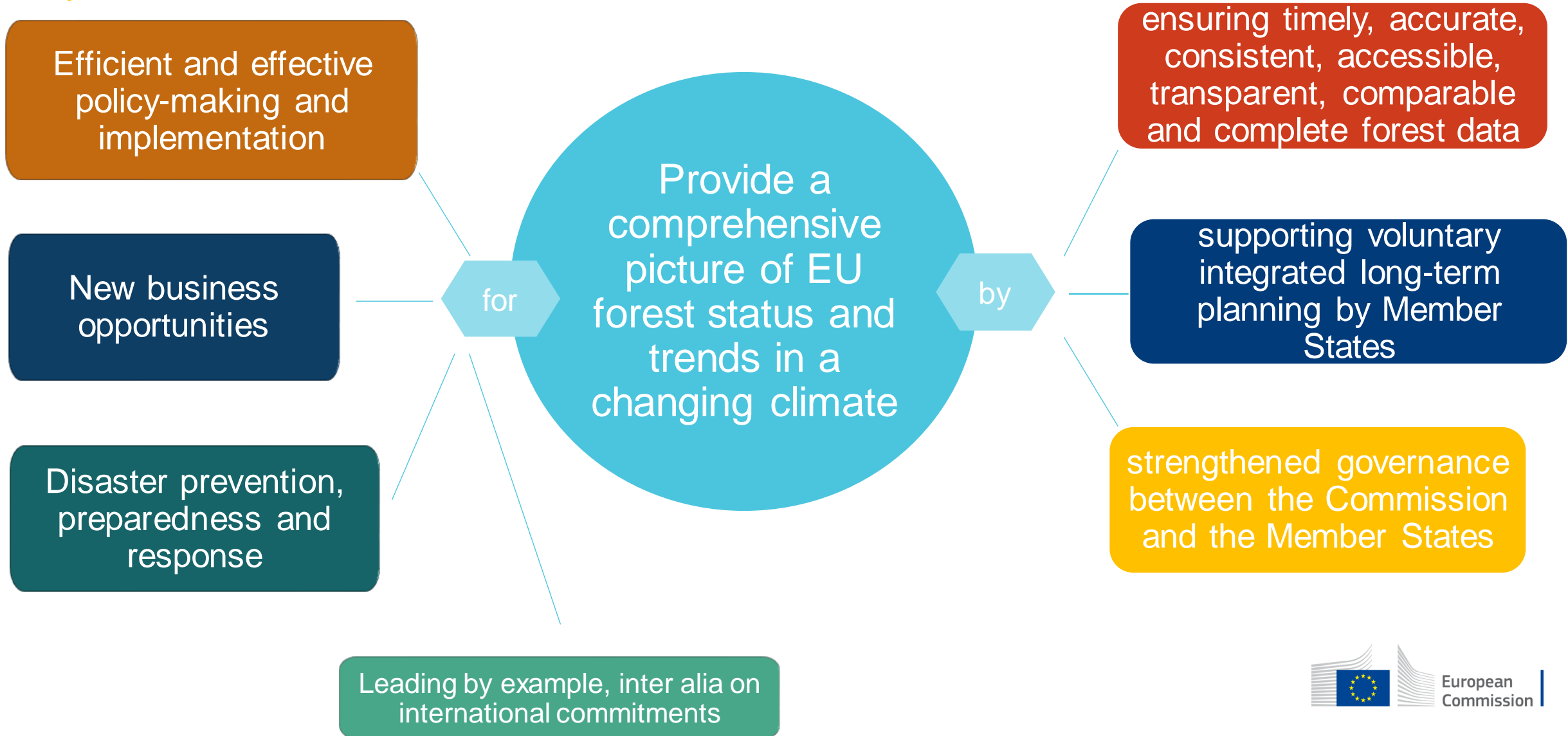


**Data on Forests & Forest Planning are not Future-Proof**



# Why? And how?

(in a nutshell)



# Benefits of the Proposal



## **Supporting Member States in achieving LULUCF requirements** (Governance Regulation, Annex V, Part 3):

- Geographically explicit land-use conversion data;
- System for monitoring land use units with high carbon stock;
- Moving to higher tier levels (from 2030 GHGI submission onwards, using Tier 3 methodologies obligatory for areas with high carbon stock).



## **Supporting forest managers to uptake new business models:**

- Carbon Removal Certification Framework
- Assisting forest managers (incl. small ones)
- Climate mitigation and resilience – key for successful bioeconomy



## **Disaster prevention**

- Identifying vulnerabilities and addressing forest hazards and risks in a timely manner



## **Supporting Deforestation Regulation requirements**

- Fostering 'deforestation-free' products

# Benefits of the proposal



**New digital tools**  
Opportunities for service providers, including SMEs and innovative start-ups



**LULUCF implementation**

- Efficient reporting for forest land
- Re-use of data and services
- Cost-effectiveness and reduced administrative burden

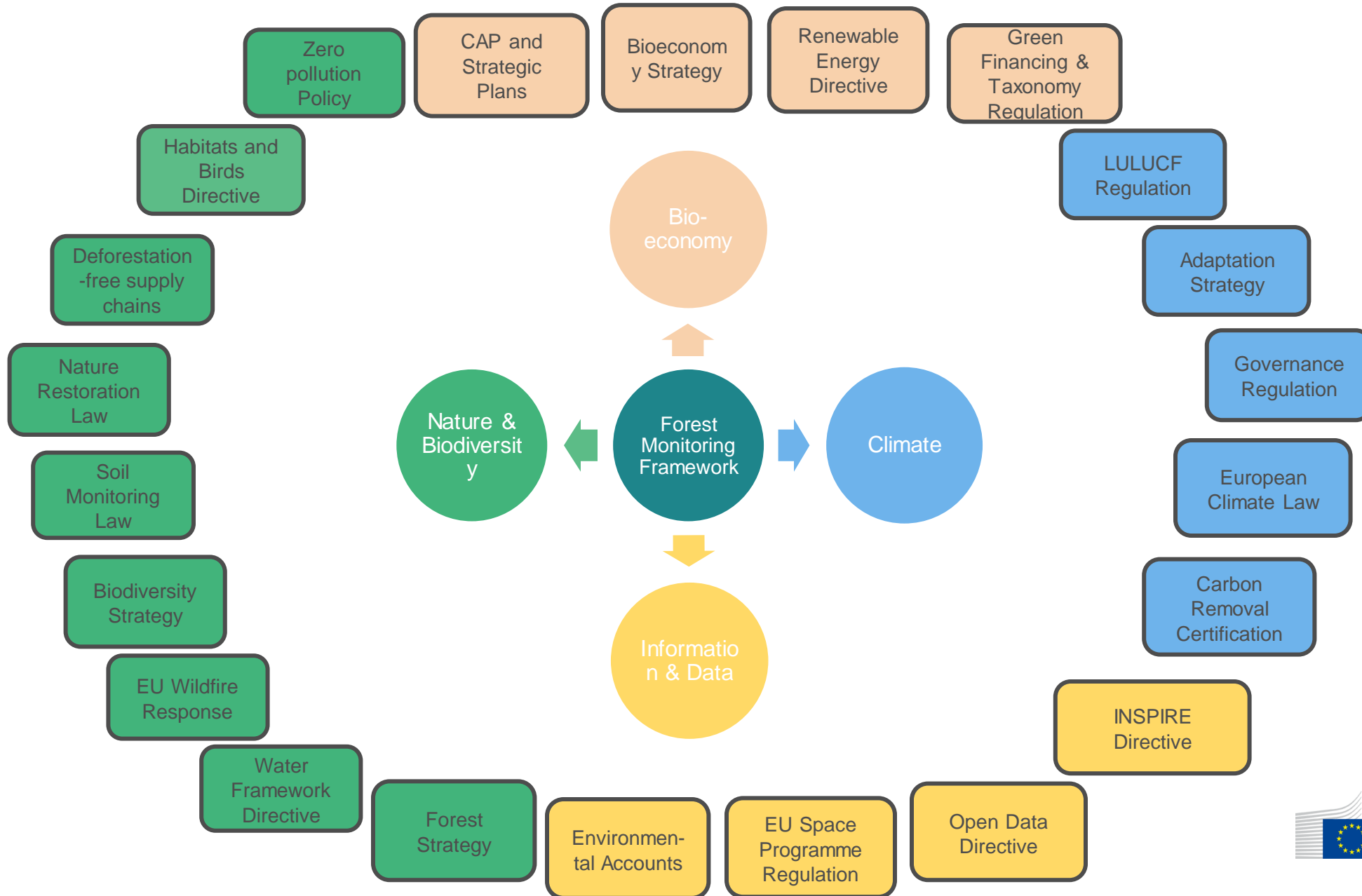
**Carbon Removal Certification**

- Income possibilities through marketing of ecosystem services
- Upscaling carbon farming
- Co-benefits for biodiversity

**Soil Monitoring Law**

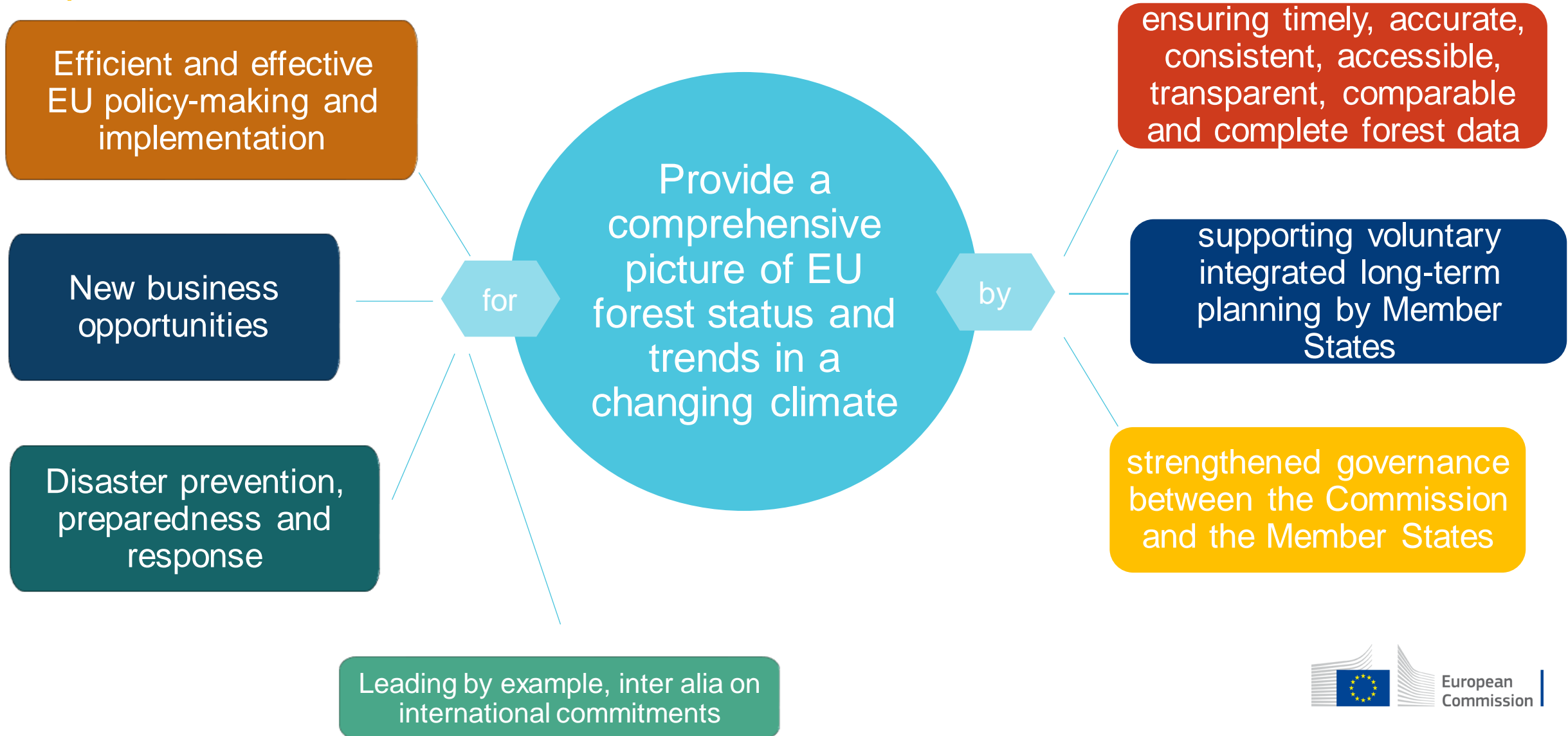
- Synergy for improved knowledge base

# The policy context



# Why? And how?

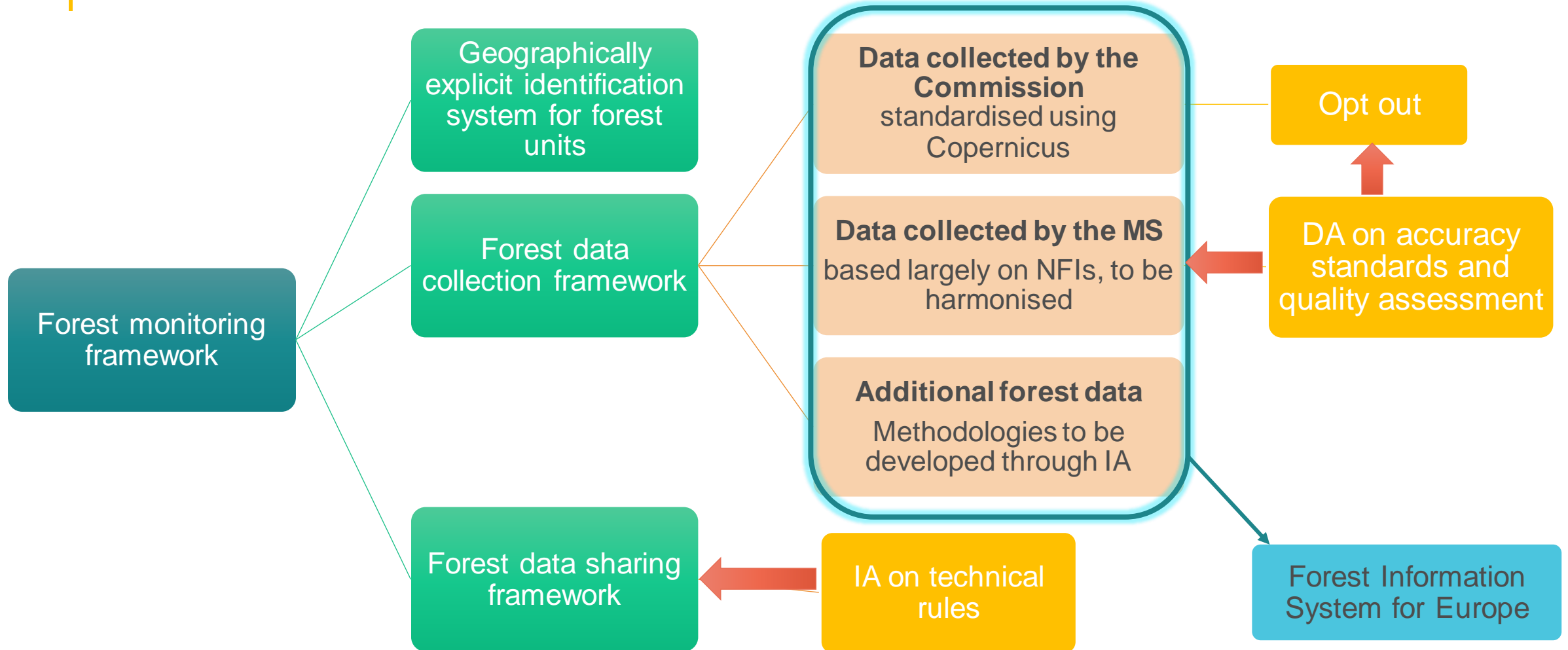
(in a nutshell)





# Monitoring framework set-up

(Articles 3-8)



# Scope of the forest data collection framework

(Articles 5 and 8 & Annexes I, II & III)

<p>Forest data subject to standardisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest area</li> <li>• Tree cover density</li> <li>• Forest type</li> <li>• Forest connectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defoliation</li> <li>• Forest fires</li> <li>• Wildfire risk assessment</li> <li>• Tree cover disturbances</li> </ul>	
<p>Forest data subject to harmonisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest available and not available for wood supply</li> <li>• Growing stock volume</li> <li>• Net annual increment</li> <li>• Stand structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree species composition</li> <li>• European Forest Type</li> <li>• Removals</li> <li>• Deadwood</li> <li>• Protected forest areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location N2K forest habitats</li> <li>• Common forest birds Abundance</li> <li>• Primary and old-growth forest</li> <li>• Wood production &amp; trade</li> <li>• Forest biomass for bioenergy</li> </ul>
<p>Forest data to be collected through a step-wise approach to be developed by Commission in cooperation with Member States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest disturbance other than fires</li> <li>• Aboveground biomass</li> <li>• Forest structure</li> <li>• Value of non-wood forest products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest habitats outside N2K sites</li> <li>• Forest naturalness classes</li> <li>• Invasive species presence</li> <li>• Diversity of non-tree vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatened species</li> <li>• Other wooded land</li> </ul>

# Opt – out from the Commission Earth Observation service

(Article 6)

## Opportunity

- More advanced Member States will be able to continue to operate their own systems and contribute with their data to the framework
- Others Member States that need support can rely on the service provided by the Commission

## Requirement

- Need to meet minimum technical specifications to be included in the framework to ensure interoperable and comparable datasets

# Integrated governance

## (Articles 11-12)

### Cooperation between MS and the Commission

- to improve data quality, timeliness and coverage of forest data
- to support MS in developing or adjusting voluntary integrated long-term plans
- link to the new Forest Governance announced in the EU Forest Strategy for 2030 (recital) COM(2023) 410

### Cooperation between MS

- to improve data quality, timeliness and coverage of forest data
- peer learning, transfer of expertise from the more advanced MSs

### Other provisions on cooperation

- Possible cooperation with other institutional structures/regional cooperation bodies (e.g. ICP forest, ENFIN)
- MS national correspondents (focal points)

# Voluntary integrated long-term plans

(Article 13 and Annex IV)

Member States are encouraged

To develop or adapt plans or strategies, with medium and long-term perspectives

To include in the plans the recommended aspects

To promote active stakeholder involvement in the development of the plans

Member States shall make the plans publicly available

- Overview on plan development
- General evolution of forests ecosystems
- Sector-specific related content
- Enablers (investment, research, capacity building)

# Empowerment provisions

## Delegated acts

- To amend technical specifications of standardized and harmonized forest data (Article 5(5) and 7(5) first paragraph)
- To establish accuracy standards for harmonisation and rules for quality assessment (Article 10(3))

## Implementing acts

- To lay down technical rules for the sharing of forest data (Article 7(5), second paragraph)
- To specify the descriptions of additional forest data and to establish methodologies for their collection and sharing (Article 8(3))
- To lay down rules on procedures and formats with regard to the compatibility of data storage and exchange systems (Article 9(2))
- To lay down technical rules on data quality control (Article 10(4))

