



SET OF AMENDMENTS TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE REGULATION OF
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE
EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL
FUND FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) IN THE
FRAME OF THE NEW CAP
(COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY)"





Introduction

PROFORBIOMED project "Promoting of residual forestry biomass in the Mediterranean basin" (**PROFORBIOMED - 1S-MED10-009**) was one of the three first strategic MED projects approved by the MED Programme's **Selection Committee** during its meeting on 22nd of February 2011 in Valencia. It was the first time for a call aiming for strategic projects and PROFORBIOMED was the only project about renewable energies approved.

PROFORBIOMED partnership is made by the following partners' structure:

- Directorate-General for the Environment of Region of Murcia (Lead partner). Spain
- Directorate-General for Natural Environment- Generalitat Valenciana (partner nº2). Spain
- Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (partner nº3). Spain
- Regional Agency of Energy Management of Murcia (partner no4). Spain
- Municipality of Enguera (partner no5). Spain
- Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (partner no 6). Italy
- Foundation Lombardy for the Environment (partner no7). Italy
- International Association for Mediterranean Forests AIFM (partner nº8). France
- PACA Forest Ownership Regional Centre (partner no9). France
- Slovenian Forestry Institute (partner nº 10). Slovenia
- Local Energy Agency Spodnje Prodravje (partner nº11). Slovenia
- Municipal Enterprise for Planning & Development of Patras (partner nº12). Greece
- University of Western Macedonia (partner nº13). Greece
- Business and Environmental Science Research Centre of D. Afonso III University of Portugal (partner no14). Portugal.
- ALGAR (partner nº15). Portugal.
- National Forest Authority Algarve Region (partner nº16). Portugal.
- Sicily Department of Public Forests Agency (partner no17). Italy.
- Western Macedonia Region (partner nº18). Greece

The aim of **PROFORBIOMED** is to promote the use of renewable energies in Mediterranean regions by creating an integrated strategy for the use of residual forestry biomass. The Project focuses on the present problem in the entire





Mediterranean arch: the difficulties to collect biomass from forest and agro forestry loggings to implement an energy valorisation.

Within the project, capitalization actions are considered very important. Their aim is to ensure the sustainable development of the biomass production chain through the transnational capitalization and promotion of wooden biomass, the setting up of political agreements, the identification of financing mechanisms, etc.

On the other hand, the Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 (the MFF proposal) sets the budgetary framework and main orientations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). On this basis, the Commission presented the "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)", laying down the legislative framework for the CAP in the period 2014-2020.

In this sense and within the framework of the capitalisation project activities, most of PROFORBIOMED partners have signed the present agreement in order to present their opinion as a contribution to the preparation of the regulatory framework for the next programming period as well as for the preparation of the "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)".





PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS

Amendement No 1.

Article 4 Objectives

It should be modified as it follows:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
Within the overall framework of the CAP, support for rural development shall contribute to achieving the following objectives: (1) the competitiveness of agriculture; (2) the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action; (3) balanced territorial development of rural	Within the overall framework of the CAP, support for rural development shall contribute to achieve the following objectives: (1) the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry sectors. (2) the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action;
areas.	(3) balanced territorial development of rural
	areas.

Justification of the proposal

Forestry sector must be considered as well, if the new CAP wants to encourage rural development.

This article is mandatory; hence if we want to promote investments and support for the forestry sector, this should be clearly stated in this article.





Amendement No 2.

Article 5

It should be modified as it follows:

According to the Regulation

Union priorities for rural development

The achievement of the objectives of rural development, which contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, shall be pursued through the following six Union priorities for rural development, which translate the relevant Thematic Objectives of the CSF:

. . .

- 2) Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability, with a focus on the following areas:
- (a) Facilitating restructuring of farms facing major structural problems, notably farms with a low degree of market participation, market-oriented farms in particular sectors and farms in need of agricultural diversification;
- (b) Facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector.

. . .

- 4) Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry, with a focus on the following areas: (a) restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2,000 areas and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes;
- (b) improving water management;
- (c) improving soil management.
- 5) Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors, with a focus on the following areas:
- (a) increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture;
- (b) increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing;
- (c) facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes, residues and other non food raw

Proposal of modification

Union priorities for rural development

The achievement of the objectives of rural development, which contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, shall be pursued through the following six Union priorities for rural development, which translate the relevant Thematic Objectives of the CSF:

...

- 2) Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture <u>and forestry</u> and enhancing farm viability, with a focus on the following areas:
- (a) Facilitating the restructuring of farms facing major structural problems, notably farms with a low degree of market participation, market-oriented farms in particular sectors and farms in need of agricultural diversification;
- (b) Facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector.
- (c) Sustainable and integrated forest management and improving long-term competitiveness of the forestry sector
- d) Facilitating the association building as well as the development of interactions and interdependencies between the agricultural/forestry entrepreneurship and the relevant research institutions and wider public sector promoting, in this way, the development of clusters.
- 4) Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry, with a focus on the following areas:
- (a) restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in Natura 2,000 areas and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes;
- (b) improving water management;
- (c) improving soil management.
- 5) Promoting resource efficiency and





material for purposes of the bio-economy;	supporting the shift towards a low carbon and
	climate resilient economy in agriculture, food
	and forestry sectors, with a focus on the
	following areas:
	(a) increasing efficiency in water use by
	agriculture;
	(b) increasing efficiency in energy use in
	agriculture and food processing;
	(c) facilitating the supply and use of
	renewable sources of energy, of by-products,
	agricultural and forestry biomass, wastes,
	residues and other non food raw material for
	purposes of the bio-economy.

Justification of the proposal

- 2) Silviculture is one of the traditional activities of the rural sector in the Mediterranean regions. Therefore, it is essential to consider forestry and farming besides agriculture. Improving competitiveness is considered essential to make products profitable and therefore to improve rural economies and support the fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategy 2020.
- 2) c) In many Mediterranean regions, the diversification of the rural economy and the improvement of the natural environment cannot be achieved without the sustainability of the forest management. Without a pulling economy there is no management, and without management there is abandonment, degradation and disasters take place.

The forest protection against abiotic agents can be promoted by setting up support discontinuity structures of plant-based fuels (fuel management tracks) that show a sustainable management by ensuring the biomass use and increasing the fuel management when combined with economic use of forest biomass.

- 2) d) The development of wood/biomass clusters will foster the cooperation between academia and businesses communities and it is therefore expected to increase the sector's added value. It is considered also of special relevance the inclusion of association building in the priorities of rural development
- 5) c) The use of agro-forestry biomass for energy purposes will satisfy the use of renewable energy sources and efficiency in power generation. Biomass should be explicitly mentioned because it is produced in rural areas and it is the renewable energy that will generate more employment.





Amendement No 3.

Article 8

The following **should be added**:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
Article 8. Thematic sub-programmes 1. Member States may include within their rural development programmes thematic sub-programmes, contributing to the Union priorities for rural development, aimed to address specific needs identified, in particular in relation to: (a) young farmers; (b) small farms as referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 20(2); (c) mountain areas as referred to in Article 33(2); (d) short supply chains	Article 8. Thematic sub-programmes 1. Member States may include within their rural development programmes thematic sub-programmes, contributing to the Union priorities for rural development, aimed to address specific needs identified, in particular in relation to: (a) young farmers; (b) small farms as referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 20(2); (c) mountain areas as referred to in Article 33(2); (d) short supply chains. (e) Renewable energies in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Justification of the proposal.

(e) This new sub-programme will help to develop environmental, technical and logistic strategies for the enhancement of the production-consumption of forest biomass and therefore to develop rural areas through the revitalization of the forestry sector by creating associated industries.

This new sub-program will be essential for the rural growth and cohesion, but at the same time to accomplish the climate and energy targets (Strategy 2020).

In fact, the Article 5.5 highlights, among others, the need to promote the use of renewable energy to promote the development of the bio-economy and to promote carbon capture in agriculture and forestry.





Amendement No 4.

Article 17 Quality <u>and sustainability</u> schemes for agricultural <u>and forest</u> products and foodstuffs

The following **should be added**:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
	1.d) quality and sustainability schemes for forest products, such as timber, biomass, etc.

Justification of the proposal.

This is in line with the need of guaranteeing the sustainability and the proper development of the markets with the highest impact on the society and economy of rural areas.

Again, it is essential to mention besides agricultural and forest products, as profitable products those emanating from the forest and from other wooded lands to improve rural economies and support the fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategy 2020.





Amendement No 5.

Article 21 Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

The following should be added:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
(b) investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy;	(b) investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy, focusing especially on renewable energy from biomass, which has a long term social and economical impact.

Justification of the proposal.

Biomass should be explicitly mentioned because it is produced in rural areas and is the renewable energy that is able to generate more employment in the long term. Infrastructures that could be promoted following this measure could be woodboilers, biomass heat plants, district-heating systems, in coordination with other energy sources following smart grid concepts, as it will be proposed by Proforbiomed project itself.





Amendement No 6.

Article 22

It should be modified as it follows:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
Article 22. Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests 1. Support under this measure shall concern: (a) afforestation and creation of woodland; (b) establishment of agro-forestry systems; (c) prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters, including pest and disease outbreaks, catastrophic events and climate related threats; (d) investments improving the resilience and environmental value as well as the mitigation potential of forest ecosystems; (e) investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products.	Article 22. Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests 1. Support under this measure shall concern: (a) drawing up of Forest Management Technical plans or any other equivalent instrument. (b) afforestation and creation of woodland; (c) establishment of agro-forestry systems; (d) prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters, including pest and disease outbreaks, catastrophic events and climate related threats; (e) investments improving the resilience and environmental value as well as the mitigation potential of forest ecosystems; (f) investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products.

Justification of the proposal.

Forest management plans are the tools based on which the actions and investments in forests areas are planned in a sustainable way. Therefore, the drawing up of these plans should be also subsidized.

In addition, the other aids may even be linked to the existence of a forest management plan or any other equivalent instrument.





Amendement No 7.

Article 23

The following **should be deleted**:

According to the Regulation

Proposal of modification

Article 23. Afforestation and creation of woodland

2. Both agricultural and non-agricultural land shall be eligible. Species planted shall be adapted to the environmental and climatic conditions of the area and answer to minimum environmental requirements. No support shall be granted for the planting of short rotation coppice, Christmas trees or fast growing trees for energy production. In areas where afforestation is made difficult by severe pedoclimatic conditions support may be provided for planting other perennial woody species such as shrubs or bushes suitable to the local conditions...

Article 23. Afforestation and creation of woodland

2. Both agricultural and non-agricultural land shall be eligible. Species planted shall be adapted to the environmental and climatic conditions of the area and answer to minimum environmental requirements, as well as in the case of short rotations coppices only lands abandoned or without agricultural use will be able to be subsidized. No support shall be granted for the planting of short rotation coppice. Christmas trees or fast growing trees for energy production. In areas where afforestation is made difficult by severe pedoclimatic conditions support may be provided for planting other perennial woody species such as shrubs or bushes suitable to the local conditions...

Justification of the proposal.

Energy crops are a real alternative, compatible with the CAP and profitable for farmers, being able to contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategy 2020. The supply of biomass required for the biomass plants will not be guaranteed if we don't take into account also biomass from short rotation coppice.

If this is matter of "afforestation" and "creation of woodland", special attention should be paid to such short rotation plantations and energy plantations that guarantee a quick cover of the soil, preventing soil losses by erosion. Such plantations can also favour for a quick formation of an organic matter layer on the soil.

However, short rotation plantation should be subsidized only in case of land with non-agricultural use or viability, so it will not contribute to improve competition between fields used for food and for energy production.





This kind of plantations fits perfectly in priority 5 c) of the *Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*:

Article 5

Union priorities for rural development

- (5) Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors, with a focus on the following areas:
- c) facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of byproducts, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy;





Amendement No 8.

Article 24

The following should be modified:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
2. "Agro-forestry systems" shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with extensive agriculture on the same land. The maximum number of trees to be planted per hectare shall be determined by the Member States taking account of local pedo-climatic conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure agricultural use of the land.	2. "Agro-forestry systems" shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with extensive agriculture on the same land, or short rotation coppices in agricultural, forest lands and other wooded lands. The maximum and minimum number of trees to be planted per hectare shall be determined by the Member States taking account of local pedo-climatic conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure agricultural use of the land

Justification of the proposal.

The current wording of this article integrates the agro and the forestry concepts, limiting the possibility of short rotation coppice to agricultural areas. The Proforbiomed consortium proposes this measure to be in force for both agricultural and forest lands, because in both cases a diversity of land uses and productions can be accepted. Some experiments are in progress at the present moment within the frame of Proforbiomed project, where fodder production, aromatic plant production, valuable broadleaves and short rotation coppices are mixed in an agroforestry system. First results are to be obtained by 2014, but the main diagnosis and pre-tested advantages of such systems are: attractive yearly income in combination with long-term investment, diversification of incomes and reduction of investment risks, synergic combination between the different uses, reduction of forest fire risk, reduction of soil erosion, increment of the animal welfare, recycling of nutrients, etc.

A minimum number of trees per hectare should be considered in order to declare a land as agro-forest land and not only as agricultural land.





Amendement No 9.

Article 27

The following should be modified:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
Article 27. Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products	Article 27. Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products
1. Support under Article 22(1)(e) shall be granted to private forest owners, municipalities and their associations and to SMEs for investments enhancing forestry potential or relating to processing and marketing adding value to forest products. In the territories of the Azores, Madeira, the Canary islands, the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93 and the French overseas departments support may also be granted to enterprises that are not SMEs.	1. Support under Article 22(1)(e) shall be granted to private forest owners, municipalities and their associations and to SMEs for investments enhancing forestry potential or relating to industrial processing and marketing adding value to forest products. In the territories of the Azores, Madeira, the Canary islands, the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93 and the French overseas departments support may also be granted to enterprises that are not SMEs.
2. Investments related to the improvement of the economic value of forests shall be at the level of the forest holding and may include investments for soil and resource friendly harvesting machinery and practices.	2. Investments related to the improvement of the economic value of forests shall be at the level of the forest holding and may include investments for soil and resource friendly harvesting machinery and practices.
3. Investments related to the use of wood as a raw material or energy source shall be limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing.	3. Investments related to the use of wood as raw material or energy source, shall cover the operations prior to industrial processing, as well as those industrial processing taking place in rural areas and performed by SMEs.

Justification of the proposal.

In the Mediterranean countries, where forest use is practically zero due to the low economic value of wood products, if industrial processing is not subsidized, there is no point in subsidizing the rest of the process, simply because it will not exist.

If we want to improve the potential of our forests and other wooded lands in order to increase their economic value and as a consequence to increase employment in rural areas, industrial processing has to be implemented mainly for the development of bioenergy with the forest biomass. Then, once there is enough demand for the product, the rest of the processes will be developed jointly.





Amendement No 10.

Article 36

It should be modified as it follows:

According to the Regulation Proposal of modification Article 36. Cooperation. Article 36. Cooperation . 1. Article 36 Co-operation 1. Article 36 Co-operation 1. Support under this measure shall promote 1. Support under this measure shall promote forms of co-operation involving at least two forms of co-operation involving at least two entities and in particular: entities and in particular: (a) co-operation approaches among different (a) co-operation approaches among different actors in the Union agriculture and food chain, actors in the Union agriculture and food chain, forestry sector and among other actors that forestry sector and among other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy, including priorities of rural development policy, including inter-branch organisations: inter-branch organisations: (b) the creation of clusters and networks; the creation of clusters and networks (b) (c) the establishment and operation of and their animation; operational groups of the EIP for agricultural (c) the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability as referred to in and forestry productivity and sustainability as Article 62. 2. Co-operation under paragraph 1 shall relate referred to in Article 62. in particular to the following: Co-operation under paragraph 1 shall (a) pilot projects; relate in particular to the following: (a) (b) the development of new products, pilot projects; practices, processes and technologies in the (b) the development of new products, agriculture, food and forestry sectors practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors (c) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes, sharing (c) co-operation among small operators in facilities and resources, organising joint work processes, sharing (d) horizontal and vertical co-operation among facilities and resources, including the supply chain actors for the establishment of participation of the civil society; logistic platforms to promote short supply (d) horizontal and vertical co-operation among chains and local markets: supply chain actors for the establishment of logistic platforms to promote short supply

Justification of the proposal.

1.b)

The establishment of clusters and networks intends to mobilize the actors involved and bring them closer to each other, so they can interact and produce the added value which is expected to be created from such synergies. However, this is not an automatic procedure and lots needs to be done in the field of their animation. By providing support for the animation of the created clusters and/or networks, the

chains and local markets:





local and regional societies sense the importance they have and the attention paid to them is increased. Finally, it is important to identify and mobilize the appropriate experts and qualified personnel that quite often come from outside the common areas of the actors already involved within these sectors.

2 c)

The participation of all parties in all territories is a crucial point for the success of cooperative initiatives in the field. Notably, not only is the participation of both private and public bodies, small to large, essential, but also, the involvement of civil society in all the process and evolutions provided by the new CAP in the territories as a key-pillar for a good governance. Indeed, the involvement and cooperation with civil society organizations (CSO), in respect of the competences and responsibilities of every stakeholder, can overpass bottlenecks and difficulties in the implementation of specific measures, concerning agriculture or forestry sectors. It seems important to specify this target audience in the measure 2c) in order not to forget it as it is still often the case.





Amendement No 11.

Annex III

As a result of the proposed amendment No. 2 to Article 8, the following **should be** added:

According to the Regulation	Proposal of modification
	Indicative list of measures and operations of particular relevance to thematic subprogrammes
	Renewable energies in the agriculture and forestry sectors: Knowledge transfer and information actions (art. 15) Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art. 16) Quality and sustainability schemes for agricultural and forest products and foodstuffs (art. 17 mod.) Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art. 21) Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 22) Afforestation and creation of Woodland (art. 23) Establishment of agro-forestry systems (art. 24) Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events (art. 25) Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (art. 26) Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products (art. 27) Setting up of producer groups (art. 28) Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art. 35) Cooperation. (art. 36)

Justification of the proposal.

It is necessary the implementation of pilot projects to subsidize the entire energy cycle from the necessary preliminary studies for the use of agro-forestry products, through the distribution chain to the transformation of the product. Once the complete cycle has been implemented, these projects must be profitable by themselves in the near future.





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General Director



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Regional Agency of Energy Management (ARGEM)

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Project cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund





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Partner 7:

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Partner 11:

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Ass.prof.dr.Janez Petek

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Partner 12:

Municipal Enterprise for Planning and Development of Patras

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Partner 13:

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Manuel Rebelo Marques,

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President of the Board of Administration





Partner 17:

Regional Department of Public Forests Agency – Regional Ministry of Agricultural and Alimentary Resources – Region of Sicily

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Region of Western Macedonia

Mr Georgios Dakis
Regional Governor
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Secretary General