

THREE
BILLION
ADDITIONAL
TREES
BY 2030

#3BillionTrees



WE GROW
TOGETHER



Workshop

Greece input to EU 3BillionTrees

Date: 15 October 2024

Auditorium “Dimitrios Pantermalis”, Acropolis Museum

Objective of the Workshop

“The EU’s forested area needs to improve, both in quality and quantity, for the EU to reach climate neutrality and a healthy environment” (European Green Deal Communication, 11.12.2019).

Larger and more resilient forest areas, more trees in urban areas, focus on the right species in the right locations, are all crucial elements for the success of European policy on biodiversity and climate including the Nature Restoration Law. The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030¹ aims at ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience. It sets out a **road map for planting 3 billion additional trees by 2030 (3BT)** based on the principle **“the right tree, in the right place for the right purpose”**.

The EU 3BT Pledge is not only about a numerical target but also about fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and collective action to safeguard our planet for future generations. It underscores the relevance of integrating nature-based solutions into broader climate change strategies to address the interconnected challenges of ecosystems degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

¹ COM (2021) 572.

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Programme

Moderator: Tassoula Eptakili, Journalist, Kathimerini

09:00 – 09:20	Arrival and registration of participants
09:20 – 09:30	Welcome speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Niovi Ringou, Head of the EC Representation in Greece- Sakis Arnaoutoglou, Member the Committee on the Environment of the European Parliament (video)
9:30 - 11:00	High-level panel: Increasing the forest cover in Greece <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Efstathios Stathopoulos, Secretary General of Forests, Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy– Marianna Nathanail, European Investment Bank (EIB) Representative for Greece and Cyprus– Prof. Georgios Tsantopoulos, President of the Forestry Department of Democritus University of Thrace– Prof. Theocharis Zagas, Professor of Silviculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Vice-president of Hellenic Forestry Society– Demetres Karavellas, CEO WWF Greece Discussion with the floor
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i> – 15 minutes
11:15 – 11:45	The 3 Billion Trees Initiative, criteria and the registration process <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Marco Onida, Senior Expert – Team Leader Forests, European Commission, Directorate General for Environment Discussion with the floor

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11:45 – 12:30	<p>Tree planting and reforestation: selected issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evangelos Goudoufas, Head of the General Directorate of Forests and Forest Environment, Ministry of Environment and Energy- Stavros Tsilikounas, General Directorate of Forests and Forest Environment, Ministry of Environment and Energy- Despina Paitaridou, General Directorate of Forests and Forest Environment, Ministry of Environment and Energy <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
12:30-13:00	<p>The concept of productive reforestation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Alexandros Papachatzis, Professor of “Arboriculture”, Head of Agricultural- Agrotechnology Department, University of Thessaly <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Light Lunch offered by the EC Representation in Greece</p>
14.00 – 14.30	<p>Tree planting, biodiversity and the climate pact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Konstantina Masika, Head of Unit “Protected Areas”, Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy- Eleftheria Touloupaki, Member of the scientific team at INZEB, the Country Coordinator of Greece for the European Climate Pact <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
14:30 – 15:15	<p>Challenges and funding opportunities for tree planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Marta Ballesteros, Associate Senior Manager, Milieu Consulting- Panagiota Pavlou, Legal Analyste, Milieu Consulting <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
15:15 – 15:45	<p>Funding opportunities for tree planting and forest conservation in Greece: EU and national aspects</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vasileios Bontzorlos, Forester (M.Sc., Ph.D), Project Manager of the LIFE EL BIOS project “National Information System for the Biodiversity of Greece”, Green Fund- Vasilis Nikitas, Economic Analyst, DG Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission (DG ECFIN) <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Exchange of best practices for tree planting initiatives in Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tree planting in the municipality of Ioannina Dimitrios Golas, Manager of the Europe Direct of Epirus Georgios Antoniou, Special Councillor of the Mayor of Ioannina in charge of environmental issues- Experience sharing from ELGO-DEMETER/Forest Research Institute Dr Ioannis Spanos, Director of Research, ELGO-DEMETER/Forest Research Institute- Planting of pine nut trees in the municipality of Skiathos Thodoris Tzoumas, Mayor of Skiathos Representative of the Greek Society for the Protection of Nature- Learnings from WWF: opportunities and challenges Panagiota Marangou, Conservation Director WWF Greece- Learnings from We4all John Iliopoulos, Co-founder and CEO, We4all <p>Discussion with the floor</p>
18:00 – 19:50	Networking cocktail reception offered by the EC Representation in Greece