Estonian Forest Policy
Institutional Framework

- Ministry of Environment – environmental and forest policies
- Ministry of Agriculture – agricultural and rural policies
- Ministry of Communications and Economic Affairs - economic, industrial and fuel policies
- Ministry of Education and Research - education and research policies
- Ministry of Finance – fiscal policy
Public Forest Administration

- the **Estonian Forestry Administration** (for the policy implementation, supervision, forest inventory, forest monitoring and extension services) under the Ministry of Environment consists of:
  - the Forest Department,
  - 15 County Environmental Services,
  - the Environmental Inspectorate and
  - the Centre of Forest Protection and Siviculture;

- for the profit-making management of the state forests is responsible the **State Forest Management Centre**
Non-governmental forest Administration

- The Private Forest Centre governed by representatives of private forest owners as well as civil servants. The main objectives of Centre are:
  - to achieve more environmental friendly forest usage and effective forest economy with educating forest owners and consultants,
  - to provide support to the private forest owners’ and associations for their non-profit and profit activities,
  - to provide international cooperation and communication between Estonian and foreign forest owners, forest organizations and funds all around the world.
Non-governmental forest Administration

• Estonian **Private Forest Union** is an umbrella organization for the private forest owners’ local organizations. Union has 30 member organizations all over Estonia

• The Estonian **Forest Industries Association** is a non-profit association, connecting companies and organizations engaged in acquisition of forests, chemical and mechanical processing of wood as well as marketing
Legal Framework

• The Estonian Forest Policy was approved in 1997. Three long-term principal objectives for the Estonian forestry sector are fixed in the document:
  – sustainable forestry,
  – efficiency in forest management,
  – the area of state-owned forests shall be at least 20 per cent of the area of the mainland of the Estonia

• The Forest Act (last revised in 2003) provides the legal framework for the management of the forests
Legal Framework

- The **Nature Conservation Act** provides the legal framework for nature conservation and management of protected areas, including the protected forest area network.
- The Estonian **Forestry Development Programme** until 2010 (approved in 2002) is the official sustainable development strategy for the Estonian forest sector.
Legal Framework

• Five priority areas in the Programme:
  – purposeful use of forest lands, including more extensive utilisation of wood and waste wood for energy production,
  – prevention of illegal fellings and the violation of forestry law provisions,
  – determination of the share and location of strictly protected forests,
  – calculation of optimum level of fellings,
  – development of extension and support systems for private forest owners
Legal Framework

• The Development Programme for the Fuel and Energy Sector up to year 2015 provides that:
  – the share of wood and peat should increase in the total energy balance up to 13% by the year 2010,
  – the commitment to increase the share of renewables in electricity production up to 5.1% by the year 2012,
  – by the year 2020 the combined heat and power production from biomass should gain the level of 20% of the total electricity production
Forestry-related information

- The national forest inventories data collection and processing system as well as the collection of information on several indicators of sustainable forest management is based on the **State register of Forest Resources**
- The State forest Management Centre elaborated its own new **information system of the management of state forests** based on its accounting system and a GIS-based database of forest resources
Forestry-related information

• The forest monitoring pursuant to the ICP-Forest Manual was introduced in 1988 already at 91 permanent sample plots. Currently there is a network of sample plots in consistence with the EU scheme

• Forestry-related statistical information has been systematically collected. The “Yearbook of Forest” has been prepared and published annually since 1995
Conclusions

• Currently we have over 140 several developing plans and programmes, which are weakly linked between each other

• We do not have the special strategy for the utilisation of wood resources for energy purposes as well as the general biomass-related policy

• All such kind of policies is under development and hopefully will be approved on the coming years