

## **RESOLUTION**

### **BY THE SEJM OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

of 14 April 2023

#### **on the Defence of Polish Forests**

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland recognises that forestry and forest management should remain the exclusive responsibility of individual EU Member States.

Poland's forests now account for nearly 30% of the country's land area and are the natural heritage of our nation. They have protective, social, and economic functions and make an essential part of the lives of current and future generations of Poles. Therefore, they should remain under the exclusive supervision of the Polish State.

For nearly 100 years, since 1924, when the Polish State Forests company was established, to which the then Polish President Stanisław Wojciechowski entrusted the care of Poland's forests, successive generations of foresters have effectively taken care of our common good.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland, while thanking Polish foresters, expresses its conviction that the multifunctional sustainable forest management carried out in our country, combined with timber construction and the production of other wood products, is a way to preserve and enrich biodiversity, positively affect the climate and, at the same time, significantly affect the economic development of the Republic of Poland.

Under the existing provisions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Union does not have a shared forestry policy, so forestry remains a national competence. For several years, however, the European Union has been violating this principle, affecting forestry through legislation issued at various levels. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, in turn, gave a positive opinion on the proposal to amend the European Treaties regarding the transfer of forestry from the competences of Member States to the common competences of the European Union.

Such actions could negatively impact Polish forests, their availability to Polish citizens, and the competitiveness of the Polish timber industry.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland expresses its strong opposition to any action by both the European Commission and the European Parliament leading to the removal of Poland's exclusive right to decide on forests.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland calls for an end to the groundless attacks on Polish foresters, undermining their knowledge and experience, which are intended to change how forests are managed in our country.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland calls on the Council of Ministers to take appropriate measures to ensure that the Republic of Poland retains the exclusive right to decide on forests.

**MARSHAL OF THE SEJM**

/ - / Elżbieta Witek