Forests protect us and our infrastructures (roads, railways, settlements, buildings, etc.) against natural and human induced hazards (such as avalanches, floods, landslides, and rock falls).

Almost 3 million people in Europe earn their living from working in forestry and forest-based industries. Across Europe, women only account for 20% of the overall workforce employed in forestry. Occupational health and safety

Around 30% of all people employed in forestry in Europe are 49 years old or over. The recruitment of new, younger workers into the sector is a challenge to be addressed. Annually, about 1 in 10 workers in the sector suffers from an accident. Despite the fact than occupational accidents decreased considerably in the last 25 years, forestry work remains a dangerous occupation.

Over the last 25 years, the number of highly-qualified employees has increased.

Woody biomass is the most important single source of renewable energy in Europe: wood accounts for almost as much energy as hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, municipal and industrial waste and other biomass put together.

And the benefits to health (physical and mental) provided by forests are innumerable.

We can't forget about the cultural and spiritual values of forests:
• They are a source of artistic inspiration.
• They are a backdrop for myths and stories.
• They provide places to learn about nature and ourselves.

Among the cultural heritage sites recorded within forests in Europe there are, for instance, 238,600 trees with cultural and spiritual values.

Forests are a major source of benefits for the society:

Employment
Forests offer us countless opportunities for recreation: at least 90% of the forests in Europe are accessible to the public for recreational purposes.

Social Welfare
Forests are a major resource for social welfare: Energy from wood resources contributes significantly to achieve the renewable energy targets.

Cultural Value
We can't forget about the cultural and spiritual values of forests.