



## CONFERENCE

### **"Our Forests, Our Future - sustainable forest management to address societal challenges"**

**Brussels, 25 and 26 April 2019**

**Location: Room De Gasperi CHARLEMAGNE building**  
Rue de la Loi 170, 1040 Brussels

Master of ceremonies: Peter Baader

#### **DAY 1 – 25 April**

08:30-09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

**09:30-10:30 OPENING SESSION – Setting the scene: The contribution of forests and the forest-based sector to EU priorities and targets. Taking stock of the review of the EU Forest Strategy**

**Welcome:** Peter Baader

**Keynote:**

**Phil Hogan** – European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Ioan Deneş** – Minister of Waters and Forests, Romania

**Point of view of forest owners and managers**

**Reinhardt Neft** – President of EUSTAFOR

**Fanny-Pomme Langue** – Secretary-General, CEPF

**Pekka Pesonen** – Secretary-General of Copa Cogeca

#### **10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:00-12:30 FIRST SESSION – Contribution of forests and the forest-based sector to innovation, growth and jobs: Opportunities and challenges for the bioeconomy**

**Keynote:**

**Lena Ek** – Chairman of SÖDRA

**John Kozij** – Director-General of the Policy, Economics and Industry Branch of the Canadian Forest Service

**Panel discussion:**

With the increase in demand for wood-based renewable energy, the search for bio-based materials in industry and the chemical sector and the drive towards zero carbon buildings and products, is the price and value of wood and wood-based products set for continued growth?

**Panellists:**

**Peter Clinch** – Jean Monnet Full Professor and Chair of Public Policy, University College Dublin

**Niklas von Weymarn** – Chief Executive Officer, Metsä Spring

**Guillermo Hernanz** - Director Garnica Plywood and Chairman of Plywood Group, European Panel Federation (EPF)

**12:30 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**14:00-15:30 SECOND SESSION – Forests and the Paris Agreement: Opportunities and challenges for forests and the forest-based sector**

**Keynote:**

**Miguel Arias Cañete** – European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy

**Peter Holmgren** – PhD Forestry, former Director-General of CIFOR

**Panel discussion:**

Initiatives related to capturing and storing the carbon potential of forests: Can the value of carbon underpin the economic argument for planting trees? Potential of forests in future carbon off-setting schemes.

**Panellists:**

**Geeta Sethi** – Food Loss and Waste Reduction Programme Manager, World Bank

**Felix Montecuccoli** – Chairman of the Austrian Forest and Landowners Association

**Adrian Enache** – Forestry Sector and Rural Development Specialist, European Investment Bank

**15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:30 THIRD SESSION – Forests and the health of the Earth**

**Keynote:**

**Aleksandra Pivec** – Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia

**Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle** – Candidate of France and the EU for the position of Director-General of FAO

**Panel discussion:**

Healthy forest ecosystems provide numerous environmental services, such as habitats for animals and plants, protection of water and soil and from natural hazards, and multiple benefits to society. It plays also a major role in adapting to climate change, in biodiversity conservation and in preventing and combating desertification. What mechanisms for safeguarding and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services through forests? How to foster markets for ecosystem services?

**Panellists:**

**Alistair Monument** – Practice Leader Forest, WWF

**Margarida Tomé** – President of the Scientific Council of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon

**Tuula Packalen** – Research Professor and Boreal Green Bioeconomy Programme Director, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

**17:30 CONFERENCE COCKTAIL**

## DAY 2 – 26 April

Registration and welcome coffee

### 09:00 -10:30 **FOURTH SESSION – Protecting forests and promoting sustainable forest management at global level**

#### **Keynote:**

**Neven Mimica** – European Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development

#### **Panel discussion:**

How to develop and implement effective actions and measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation?

#### **Panellists:**

**Valerie Merckx** – REDD Team Leader, EFI

**Stewart Maginnis** – Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group, IUCN

**Tiina Vähänen** – Coordinator, Forestry Policy and Resource Division, FAO

**Jorge Rodriguez Romero** – Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

### 10:30-11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

### 11:00 -12:30 **FIFTH SESSION – Tree planting in action: Presentation and discussion of successful tree planting campaigns and forest communication actions**

#### **Panellists:**

**Felix Finkbeiner** – Founder and Chair of Plant for the Planet

**Noel O’ Shea** – Trees Ireland

**Lars Heiselberg Vang Jensen** – Chairman of Growing Trees Network Foundation

**Lucie Pelous** – Coordinatrice Journée internationale des forêts - Teragir

**Kai Lintunen** – Head of International Communication, Finnish Forest Association and Leader of the UNECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network

**Concluding remarks** by Commissioner Phil Hogan

### 13:00- 14:00 **TREE PLANTING CEREMONY**

Children from EU Member States will be invited to plant trees in a closing ceremony.