



# OUR FORESTS FUTURE

C O N F E R E N C E

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO  
ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

## PROGRAMME

**25-26 APRIL 2019**

BRUSSELS

**#EUforest**

Agriculture  
and Rural  
Development





## Foreword

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the conference “Our Forests, Our Future”. The importance of forests for our society and the unique and indispensable role they play in our planet are increasingly acknowledged. As stated in the Cork 2.0 Declaration on the future of EU rural development, forests and the forest-based sector can greatly contribute to delivering sustainable solutions to current and future societal challenges, such as combating climate change, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, promoting the circular bioeconomy, and protecting biodiversity and natural resources. In the European Union, forests cover about 40% of the territory, and the forest-based sector provides more than 3.5 million jobs. Forests are a great asset in the EU and around the world: forest value chains are engines of rural growth and generate multiple benefits to society, including benefits for human health, recreation and tourism.

This event comes a few months after the European Commission presented the report on the review of the EU Forest Strategy. The report illustrates the progress achieved over the last four years in a number of priority areas and how the Forest Strategy is effectively supporting the contribution of EU forests to many policy priorities and to the global sustainability agenda.

The recent revision of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy highlights the role of forests and forest products in developing the bioeconomy and promoting innovation, jobs and growth in rural areas. The conference will analyse the main challenges and opportunities for the forest-based sector as well as main factors affecting the development of the bioeconomy in the long-term.

We will also address the importance of forests for EU climate action and for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, notably in the achievement of the long-term objective of balancing greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the second half of the century. In the EU we have included forests in the scope of our emission reduction targets for 2030 through the adoption of the LULUCF Regulation. We have identified a way forward which emphasises the role of European forests and wood in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration.

At the same time, our forests are increasingly exposed to the effects of changing climatic conditions. In recent years, EU forests were strongly affected by forest fires, pest outbreaks



and storms in many Member States. These events underline the importance of enhancing the resilience of forests to ensure their long-term sustainability. In line with this, the provision of ecosystems service and biodiversity conservation will also be at the heart of discussions with scientists, forest owners, environmental NGOs and policy makers. Presentations will illustrate ongoing efforts for improving the delivery of those services to society.

Reflecting these priorities, the rural development policy provides substantial support to the protection and sustainable management of forests. The future CAP post-2020 will provide Member States with greater subsidiarity and flexibility to design interventions more suitable to increase further the role of forests in addressing key future objectives.

During the second day, the conference will address EU actions to promote the protection and sustainable management of forests at global level, and discuss effective measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation.

Finally, the conference will also cover the link between forests and society and present different initiatives from civil society aimed at promoting the benefits of forests and trees for the environment, the climate and quality of life. It will also touch upon issues related to public perception of forests and how to communicate better to society the multiple benefits stemming from the protection and sustainable management of forests.

I am confident that these two days will be inspiring and bring new ideas and sound reflections for the future of our forests and forestry. I am delighted that you have joined us and I look forward to your input in the discussions.

Phil Hogan  
*European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development*

## DAY 1 – 25 April

08:30-09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

09:30-10:30 **Welcome: Peter Baader, Senior Advisor, European Commission**

### 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

#### Keynote

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

**Daniel Constantin Coroama** – Secretary of State for Forests, Romania

#### Point of view of forest representative associations and civil society

**Reinhardt Neft** – President of the European State Forests Association (EUSTAFOR)

**Fanny-Pomme Langue** – Secretary-General of the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)

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

**Hannah Mowat** – Representative of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Campaigns Coordinator of Fern

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 the Center for International Forestry Research (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** – Advisor and Global Lead for Food Systems, 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 are in place for safeguarding and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services through forests? How to foster markets for ecosystem services?

#### Panellists

**Alistair Monument** – Practice Leader Forest, World Wide Fund for Nature (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

NETWORKING COCKTAIL

## DAY 2 – 26 April

08:00-09:00 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 and Development

#### Panel discussion

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

#### Panellists

**Valerie Merckx** – EU REDD Facility, EFI

**Stewart Maginnis** – Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Tiina Vähänen** – Chief, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Forestry Department, FAO

**Jorge Rodriguez Romero** – Deputy Head of Unit F3 - Multilateral Environmental Cooperation, 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

**Lucie Pelous** – Coordinator, "International Day of Forests, France" – Teragir

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

**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

**Concluding remarks by Commissioner Phil Hogan**

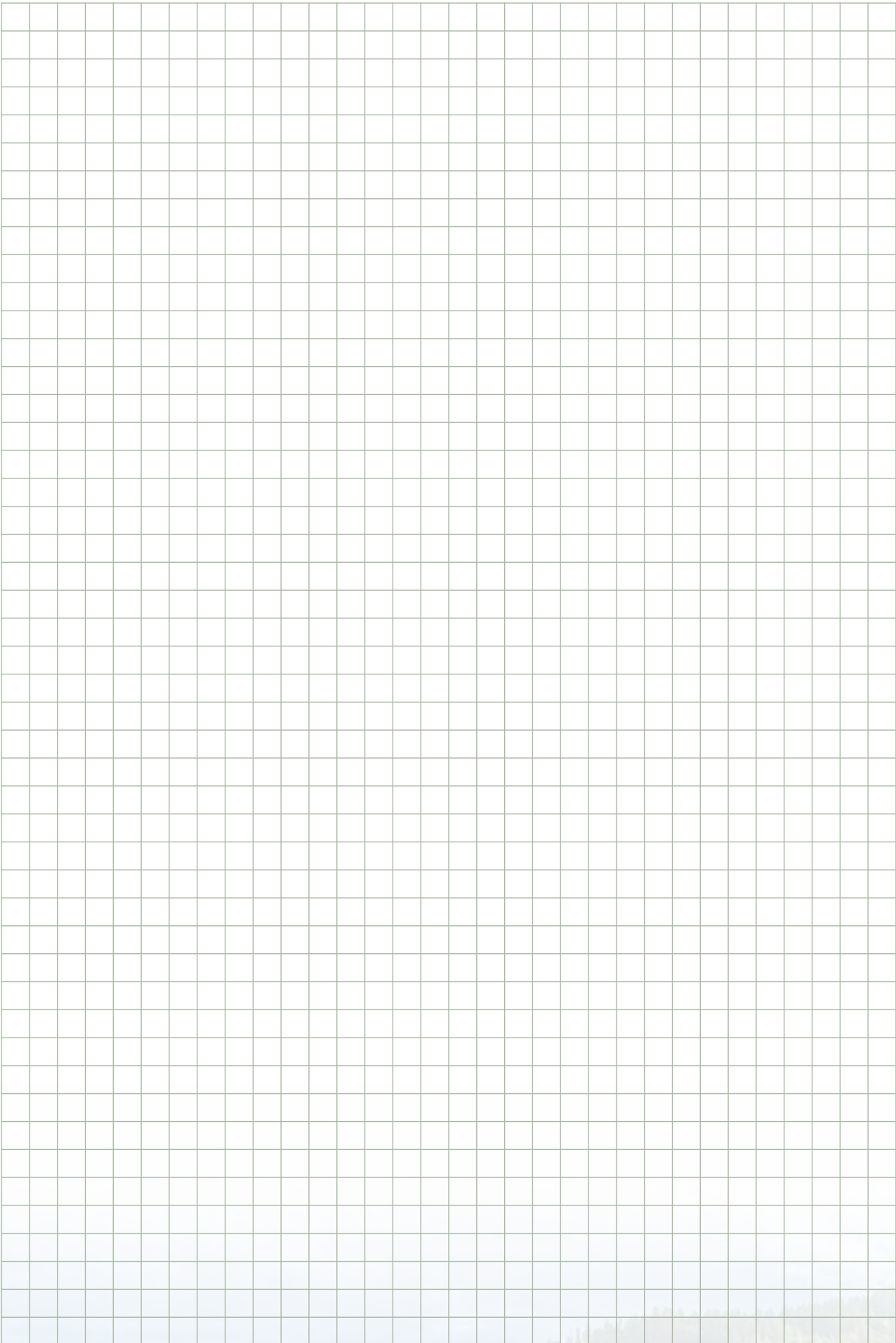
13:00- 14:00

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

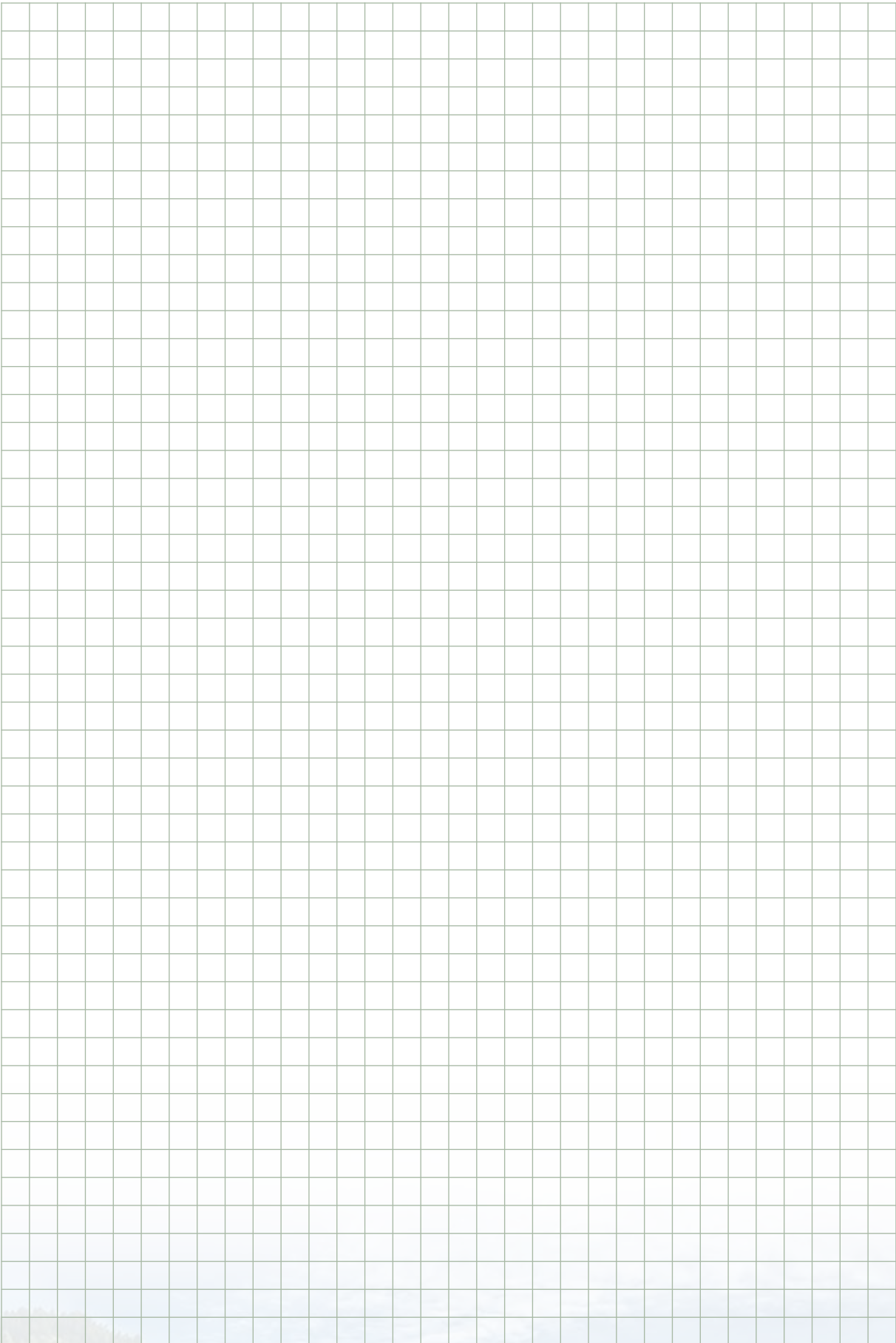
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