



OUR FORESTS FUTURE CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS

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BRUSSELS

#EUforest

Agriculture
and Rural
Development



Phil HOGAN

European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development - EC

Commissioner Hogan grew up on a farm in rural Kilkenny, in south-east Ireland. From 1989 until he became Commissioner in November 2014, he represented the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency in Dail Eireann, the Irish Parliament, where he served in the Fine Gael Party shadow cabinet and as spokesman on Europe, on the food industry, on consumer affairs and on regional policy. Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Minister for the Environment and Local Government in the Irish Government of Prime Minister Enda Kenny TD. During this time, he successfully implemented a broad-ranging agenda, including the biggest reform of local government since the foundation of the Irish State. Prior to his entry to politics, he established and subsequently directed an insurance and real estate business. He also managed the family farm between 1981-83 and is a graduate of University College Cork, with a BA in Economics and Geography (1981).



Daniel-Constantin COROAMĂ

Secretary of State for Forests

Mr. Daniel-Constantin Coroamă has a technical education background, he earned his bachelor's degree in 2000 in the forestry field, namely in silviculture practice, at the „Ștefan cel Mare” University from Suceava County.

He started out his professional activity in 2000. He was appreciated for his good communication skills acquired through his professional experience, participating in public debates on various topics of interest, for his decision-making competence and his organization, coordination and control capacity. Mr. Coroamă is an analytical person, with the ability to effectively solve problems, keeping also his creativity and initiative spirit.

In terms of professional activity, in 2004 Daniel-Constantin Coroamă started working in the public sector, more specifically for the Forest Guard of Suceava and gaining a 15 years' experience in this field, along with the position of Chief Inspector.

He was appointed Secretary of State forin November 2018.



Peter BAADER

Senior Expert - DG Agriculture and Rural Development - EC

Peter Baader is a lawyer by training and was a judge in Germany before joining the European Commission in early 1998. Mr. Baader has worked in different Directorates General of the Commission: Research, Information Society, Anti-fraud and, since mid-2011, Agriculture, almost always in contract and financial management and compliance. He is now a Senior Expert for compliance in DG AGRI's resource directorate and is also active in communication.



Reinhardt NEFT

President of EUSTAFOR

Reinhardt Neft is the Managing Director of the Bavarian State Forest Enterprise since 2005. As Managing Director he is responsible for the department of silviculture, nature conservacy, forest protection, hunting and fishing, the human resources department, the IT department and for 22 forest departments as well. Before 2005 he worked on different positions at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Munich, Bavaria. For the past 4 years he was Vice-President of the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR). Since March 2019 he is President of the European State Forest Association.





Fanny-Pomme LANGUE

Secretary-General - CEPF

Fanny-Pomme Langue has been Secretary General of the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) since early 2018. Before joining CEPF, she worked for five years as Policy Director of the European association representing the EU bioenergy sector (Bioenergy Europe). Prior to that, Ms Langue worked for three years as a policy officer at the European Commission in DG Energy (Renewable Energy Unit). She also has five years' experience as Deputy Director of Les cooperatives forestières, the national organisation representing French forest cooperatives. Fanny-Pomme Langue holds a degree in political science (Sciences Po Lyon) as well as a master's degree in EU policy (Louvain-la-Neuve University) and a master's degree in agricultural law (Paris-Sorbonne University).



Pekka PESONEN

Secretary-General of Copa Cogeca

Mr Pekka Pesonen is the Secretary General of Copa, representing European farmers, and Cogeca, representing European agri-cooperatives, which together count more than 70 national farming organisations from across Europe. Previously, he worked as State Secretary for the Finnish Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, Mr Pesonen has extensive professional experience in lobbying at EU level on behalf of Finnish farmers, forest owners (MTK and SLC) and agri-forestry cooperatives (Pellervo). In the 1990s, he worked in the sales and marketing department of Valio, a Finnish dairy company. Mr Pesonen has also been a member of several high level advisory groups concerning EU policy preparation. He is a qualified agronomist and is married with three teenage children.



Hannah MOWAT

Representative of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Campaigns Coordinator of Fem

Hannah Mowat has over 10 years experience campaigning for stronger energy, climate and forest policies in European NGOs, and has published numerous reports and articles on finance and land rights, carbon trading, biodiversity offsetting, LULUCF and negative emissions. She previously worked at Friends of the Earth and the Munden Project, and lives in Paris.



Lena EK

Chairman of Södra Skogsägarna ekonomisk förening

Dr h.c. Lena Ek is since 2015 chairman of the Board of Södra – a cooperative with 52000 family forest owners and an industry producing paper pulp, green electricity, liquid biofuel and sawn goods. Lena Ek is a former minister for environment 2011-2014, Sweden. She has represented the Centre Party as a mayor, member of the Swedish Parliament (committee of finance) 1998-2004 and Member of the European Parliament (ITRE committee) 2004-2011. Lena Ek is also chair of European Forest-based sector Technology platform 2016-, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of engineering sciences and chair of the Forestry technology sector, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and holds an honorary doctorate from Lund University.

John KOZIJ

Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada – Director General

John Kozij is the Director General of the Policy, Economics and Industry Branch of the Canadian Forest Service at the Department of Natural Resources Canada. Prior to joining NRCan in January of 2015 he was the Director General of Land and Environmental Management and the Director General of the Northern Policy and Science Integration Branch at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) where a large preoccupation included developing and championing Canada's Northern Strategy. Prior to this, John was a senior officer with the Privy Council Office, and a senior economist with the Canadian International Development Agency.



Peter CLINCH

Jean Monnet Full Professor and Chair of Public Policy, GEARY Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin

Peter Clinch is Jean Monnet Full Professor and Chair of Public Policy at University College Dublin, Chair of National Competitiveness Council of Ireland and a Member of the National Advisory Council on Climate Change. He previously was chief policy adviser to the Irish Prime Minister and Vice-President of University College Dublin and he is an Affiliate Faculty Member of the competitiveness programme at Harvard Business School. Peter has advised or worked on behalf of, amongst others, the World Bank, OECD, and several national governments and their agencies. He has a distinguished track record in research. He has authored over 100 publications including books, book chapters and journal articles as well as more than 100 other publications. In 2017, was conferred with a Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences for distinguished contributions to the social sciences.



Niklas VON WEYMARN

Metsä Spring - CEO

Niklas has a Doctor of Science degree in bioprocess engineering from Aalto University in Finland. He has also studied economics and innovation strategies. His job career begun in 1999, when he took on the position of Research Scientist at Cultor Technology Center (today DuPont). He has since hold the positions of Project Manager, Team Leader, Program Manager, Technology Manager and Vice President for Research at Aalto University, VTT, CLIC Innovation Ltd and Metsä Fibre Ltd, respectively. He is currently CEO of Metsä Spring Ltd, the venture capital arm of Metsä Group. Niklas is currently also Board member of the Bio-based Industries Consortium BIC, the private partner of BBI JU.



Guillermo HERNANZ

CEO Garnica Plywood

Forest engineer, and MBA.

Chairman of the Plywood Group at EPF

Working at Garnica plywood company since 1995, first 11 years as Mill Director at Valencia de Don Juan Mill, later 2 years as Deputy General Director, and the following 10 years as Garnica's CEO, last year as Director of New Industrial, from the beginning of the 2019 as Senior Advisor.

Previous work at LOSAN, 6 years as Forestry Department Director, and 3 years in FINSA F.P. in Ireland as Forestry Department Director to supply chipboard factories.





Miguel Arias CAÑETE

European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy - EC

Miguel Arias Cañete is Spanish. Since 2014, he is the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy. He was Member of the European Parliament in 2014. From 2011 – 2014, he was Minister for Agriculture, Food and Environment. He has also been a member of the Administrative Board of Bami Newco, a real estate company from 2009 to 2011. Before that, he occupied the position of President of the Joint Committee of the European Union, Spanish Congress (2008-11). Mr Cañete has also been President of Petrolífera Ducar S.L. and Petrologis Canarias S.L. management boards, oil companies from 2005 to 2011.

From 2004 to 2008, he was simultaneously Executive Secretary for Economic and Employment Affairs, at the People's Party 20 and Representative for Cádiz at the Spanish Congress. From 2000 - 2004 – Mr Cañete was Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. State Attorney in Cádiz and Jerez de la Frontera from 1999 to 2000. He was Town Councillor in Jerez de la Frontera in 1994 and Member of the European Parliament from 1986-99. Before that Mr Cañete was Member of the regional parliament of Andalusia and Senator representing Cádiz (1982-86). After a Degree of Law from the University Complutense (Madrid 1971), he was a civil Law Professor at the University of Jerez de la Frontera (1979-82) and a State Attorney in Ceuta, Cádiz and Jerez de la Frontera 1975-82.



Peter HOLMGREN

Former Director-General of CIFOR (climate smart forestry: synergies between mitigation and adaptation)

FutureVistas - CEO

Dr. Peter Holmgren has a long international career within forestry, food security and climate change. During 14 years at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) he led the Global Forest Resources Assessment, headed the forest resources development unit and was for five years Director of Climate, Energy and Tenure. He co-founded the UN-REDD programme and led the development of the climate-smart agriculture concept. From 2012-2017 he served as Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) where he connected the world of forestry to the SDGs and set up the Global Landscapes Forum placing local communities at the center of sustainable development. He is now based in his native Sweden as sustainability strategist for the forest industry.



Geeta SETHI

Food Loss and Waste Reduction Program Manager - World Bank

Geeta Sethi is the Advisor and Global Lead for Food Systems at the World Bank. She is managing the World Bank's program on Food Loss and Waste Reduction. She has more than 20 years of experience working as an economist on fragile, low-, and middle-income countries. Her work has focused on issues of rural development, service delivery and intergovernmental fiscal policies in around the world. She has delivered many lending programs to the World Bank Board as well as published books and articles in referred journals on issues relating to rural labor markets, trade policy and fiscal decentralization. Previously, she was the Chief of Staff to the Climate Change Vice President and Special Envoy, the Operations and Strategy Manger for Climate Change, and worked as the Program Manager for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. She has an MBA and PhD in Economics.

Felix MONTECUCCOLI

Chairman of the Austrian Forest and Landowners Association

Felix Montecuccoli graduated in forestry at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna (BOKU) in 1992. After practical experiences in Germany and Chile and several years as expert for forestry and environment in the Austrian forest owner Association he took over the management of the family forest estate in Lower Austria in 2002. The Montecuccoli estate is active in sustainable forest management on about 1000 hectar with Bioenergy, arable crop production, sustainable hunting and fishery and historic houses. Beside his responsibility for the family estate, he chairs the Association of Austrian Land and Forest Owners as president since 2006. Additional high-level functions in many other forest related organizations in Austria complement the manifold fields of responsibility of Mr. Montecuccoli. On national, European and international level he is exemplary member of the board of CEPF, ELO or IFFA and involved in several working groups on forest related issues. He is working on current challenges like climate change, renewable energy, bioeconomy, biodiversity or sustainable tax-systems and often requested as speaker in this topics. Regular publications in several media, speeches and presentations about forestry, land use and environment are an essential part of his work.



Adrian ENACHE

Forestry Sector and Rural Development Specialist - European Investment Bank

Adrian Enache is a natural resources management specialist with over 14 years of experience in sustainable forest management and international forestry sector projects, with focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation, bioeconomy and rural development. He holds a double degree PhD in forestry from University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria) and Transilvania University of Brasov (Romania). He has extensive professional exposure to developing, implementing and managing forest operations, applied research and technical assistance projects, as well as in conducting full appraisals (i.e. technical, economic, social and environmental) of private and public forest value chain investments (i.e. resources and industries) around the world.



Mr. Enache is the European Investment Bank's fully fledged forest engineer, responsible with thorough appraisal and monitoring of long-term economic, financial and environmental viability of investments in forestry and forest-based sectors, including cross-sectorial projects/programmes (bioenergy sector) as well as private equity funds (forestry and agri-business), inside and outside EU.

Aleksandra PIVEC

Slovenian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

In 1999 she graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the University of Ljubljana, where she later obtained her PhD degree in chemical engineering.

She began her career as a professional research assistant at the Faculty for Chemistry and Chemical Technology in Ljubljana and at the Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj.

During 17 years at the Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj she was involved in the design, management and coordination of national and international development, as well as research and application projects. As the director of the institution (from 2011 to 2017) she focused on its management and planning, along with the preparation and implementation of activities aimed at fostering local and regional development of the statistic region Spodnje Podravje.

In September 2016 she joined the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad, where she held the position of state secretary from September 2017 to September 2018. She was responsible for developing and supporting synergies between the interests and activities of Slovenians abroad and their homeland in the areas of culture, education, economy, youth activities, and EU cooperation. On 13 September 2018, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia appointed her as the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.





Catherine GESLAIN-LANÉELLE

Candidate of France and the EU for the position of Director General of the FAO

Ms Geslain-Lanéelle is an engineer in agronomy, former Director-General of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food and former Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has recognized leadership skills and has proven her ability to manage complex and large-scale organizations operating in a multicultural environment, as well as high-level professional experience in the fields of food systems, rural development, forestry and food security, both in France and in Europe.



Alistair MONUMENT

WWF - Global Forest Practice Leader

As the lead of WWF's Global Forest Practice, Alistair oversees the delivery of projects and initiatives in more than 60 countries worldwide. WWF's work to conserve forests is focused on halting deforestation and degradation, protecting the world's most important habitats, advancing responsible forest management and scaling up forest landscape restoration. Through diverse partnerships, innovative financial mechanisms combined with on-the-ground expertise, WWF is uniquely positioned to innovate and implement restoration solutions in landscapes that regain ecological integrity and enhance human wellbeing. Alistair was previously the Asia Pacific Director at the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and was the founding Director of Accreditation Services International (ASI), FSC's accreditation arm.



Margarida TOMÉ

President of the Scientific Council of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon

I am Professor at Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa, where I teach Forest Resources Inventory, Forest Modelling and Forest Management. I am coordinator of the Forest Ecosystem Management under Global Change Group (ForChange), one of the research groups of the Forest Research Centre (CEF) that has the aim to develop scientifically sound methods for Atlantic and Mediterranean forest ecosystem management. The group has a strong focus on the transfer of knowledge to end-users by developing technological applications that integrate and make useful the research results. I have been strongly involved with EFI, namely with EFIATLANTIC and EFIMED regional offices, as well as with IUFRO where I was Division IV coordinator for the previous two terms.



Tuula PACKALEN

Research Professor - LUKE Natural Resource Institute Finland

Tuula Packalen is currently research professor in forest planning and Programme Director in Boreal Green Bioeconomy at Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke). She holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh. She has 30 years of experience in forest inventory and planning, with emphasis on multi-functional forest management. In Finland, she has lead several research programmes and consortia, and more than 20 projects. Internationally, she has worked as the Head of Forest Resources and Information at the European Forest Institute (EFI) as well as the coordinator of the IUFRO Unit "Large-scale forest inventory and scenario modelling", the COST Strategic Workshop "Foresight on Future Demand for Forest-based Products and Services", the COST Action "Orchestrating forest-related policy analysis in Europe (ORCHESTRA)" and the Horizon2020 project "Distributed, integrated and harmonized forest information for bioeconomy outlooks" (DIABOLO). She is also a Finnish national representative in the European Commission SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group and in the UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists (ToS) for Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Sector Outlook and Forest Policy.

Neven MIMICA

European Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development – EC

Neven MIMICA is the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. From 1987 to 1997, he served in the diplomatic service of SFR Yugoslavia and Croatia. He was then Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs (2000) and Chief Negotiator for the SAA with the EU (2000-2001). He served as Minister for European Integration (2001-2003) after which he became the Chairman of the European Integration Committee in the Croatian Parliament. Between 2008 and 2011, he was Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament and Chairman of the European Integration Committee. From 2011 to 2013, he was Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Internal, Foreign and European policy, prior to joining the European Commission as the first Croatian Commissioner responsible for consumer policy.

Mr Mimica was born in Split, Croatia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Trade and Master's degree in Economics from the University of Zagreb.



Valérie MERCKX

EU REDD Facility, EFI

Valérie Merckx works at EFI, leading the EU REDD Facility, which helps tropical countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by improving forest and land-use governance. She provides strategic leadership to the Facility as it develops and implements innovative solutions that inform REDD+ policies, support implementation of zero-deforestation commitments and promote sustainable supply chains. Previously, Valérie worked at the European Commission's Directorate General of Climate Action, where she focused on forest and land-use issues as part of the EU delegation to the international climate change negotiations. Before that, she worked for the French Office National des Forêts (ONF), first as head of a territorial unit in the Jura mountains of Eastern France, an area where forests and timber production play a strong role in local economy and where forests also deliver critical services to the environment, landscape and tourism. She then followed climate and energy issues at ONF headquarters, also serving the French Inter-ministerial Taskforce on Climate Change as an expert on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. She has a background in forestry, natural resource management and agronomics.



Stewart MAGINNIS

IUCN Nature-based Solutions Group – Global Director

Expertise: forest landscape restoration, nature-based solutions, community-based natural resource management, tropical forest conservation and management, ecosystem management and rural livelihoods.

Stewart Maginnis has more than 30 years of broad experience in the area of natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, including 15 years full-time field work in Tanzania, Sudan, Ghana and Costa Rica. More recently he has worked extensively in national and international natural resource and climate change policy arenas and is a recognized leader in the conceptual development and promotion of "forest landscape restoration" (FLR), an approach which has now been adopted by many national and international policies and initiatives, including the Bonn Challenge to restore 168 million hectares of impoverished and degraded landscapes over the forthcoming decade. He has also taken a leadership role in defining and promoting the concept of Nature Based Solutions and he and his team are currently working on the development of practical guidance and standards for NBS approaches that can be operationalized at scale.





Tiina VÄHÄNEN

FAO Forestry Chief

Chief, Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO

Tiina Vähänen is the Chief of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division of the Forestry Department. In her previous role, she has led FAO work on REDD+ and national forest monitoring. She has worked on international forest and natural resources policy issues at FAO since 2001, and led the organization of the 14th World Forestry Congress in 2015. She has coordinated FAO's contributions to the global climate change debates, notably UNFCCC, and managed FAO forestry contributions to other international agreements and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Ms Vähänen has M.Sc. on Forestry and Agriculture.



Jorge RODRIGUEZ ROMERO

Deputy Head of Unit F.3 Multilateral Environmental Cooperation – DG Environment - EC

Since 2004, Jorge RODRIGUEZ ROMERO has been working in DG Environment in different posts related to EU and international environmental policies.

As January 2017, he became Deputy Head of Unit in DG Environment Multilateral Environmental Cooperation unit, dealing among other issues with international forest, wildlife trafficking and international environmental governance.

Before joining the Commission, he worked for the Spanish Ministry for the Environment and as a consultant.



Felix FINKBEINER

Plant for the Planet

At the age of 9, Felix Finkbeiner, inspired by the story of Wangari Maathai, developed the idea that children could promote climate justice by planting a million trees in every country. With the support of children from over a hundred countries, Felix launched the children and youth initiative Plant-for-the-Planet in 2007. So far, more than 70,000 children and youth in 67 countries have been trained in Plant-for-the-Planet Academies. As Climate Justice Ambassadors, these children and youth give speeches to adults, make them act and fight for their future. In May 2018, the German President awards Felix the Federal Cross of Merit to honor his commitment for climate justice. Today, Felix does his PhD at the ETH Zurich. He researches on the forest restoration potential



Noel O'SHEA

Tree Council of Ireland - Trees Now!

Noel worked in the Phoenix Park National Park Service as the arboriculturist from 1978-2015. In this role he managed the mature woodlands of the Phoenix Park and enclosures including the President's residence, Dublin Zoo and the Ordinance Survey. Noel was the first person in Ireland to be awarded the Association Fellowship of the Arboricultural Association in 1987. Noel is now part of the group Trees Now! which promotes awareness of tree planting in Ireland and further afield.

Lars HEISELBERG VANG JENSEN

Chairman of Growing Trees Network Foundation

Chairman of Growing Trees Network Foundation that helps municipalities, the state nature department, and churches in Denmark to set up “forest by the people” “Peoplesforest” mainly on top of groundwater resources in Denmark.

He is a former rescue man in the ambulance-service, firstaid teacher, Head of a project that provided hospitals in Laos with 33 containers of medical equipment from Denmark – later he went there and instructed staff in how to use it. Today he is committed to raise donations and plant as many trees as possible all over the world. His goal is that together we can help the whole world.



Lucie PELOUS

Coordinatrice Journée Internationa des forêts – Teragir

Between 2008 and 2010, at the same time as her studies, she got involved in the French biggest student association for sustainable development.

In 2012, she graduated from a business school with a specialization in sustainable development. After a couple experiences in the fields of humanitarian aid and corporate social responsibility (the NGO Action against Hunger and Orange’s CSR department), the association Teragir hired her in 2013, as a mission leader in Education for Environment and Sustainable Development.

She worked on an educational tree planting campaign for all actors in French territories. Lucie especially participated in the creation of the new Teragir’s program: the International Day of Forests in France, whose first occasion was in 2014.

In 2016, she became coordinator of the French International Day of Forests within Teragir; at that same moment the campaign grew with its new educational section for children at school and after-school activities, and was enriched by educational tree planting.



Kai LINTUNEN

Finnischer Forstverein - Head of International Communication

Kai Lintunen is the Head of International Communication at the Finnish Forest Association, and has more than 20 years of experience in sustainability communications, environmental and lobbying activities for the Finnish forest sector.

Previously, he has held a variety of positions in industries, environmental communications and consulting companies, specializing in international issues. He is the leader of the FAO-UNECE Forest Communicators Network as well as a member of the FAO global communications coordination group.

Kai studied environmental and land use economics as well as communications at the University of Helsinki. He holds a Master of Science (Agriculture and Forestry) degree.





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