

Sustainable forest biomass in the light of COP21 (Paris)

1 December 2016
08.30-11.00, PHS P1A002
European Parliament, Brussels

Co-Hosted by:

MEP Pavel Poc

Chair of the EP Intergroup on “*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*”
and

MEP Jytte Guteland

Member of the Committee of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Keynote speech by:

Marie Donnelly

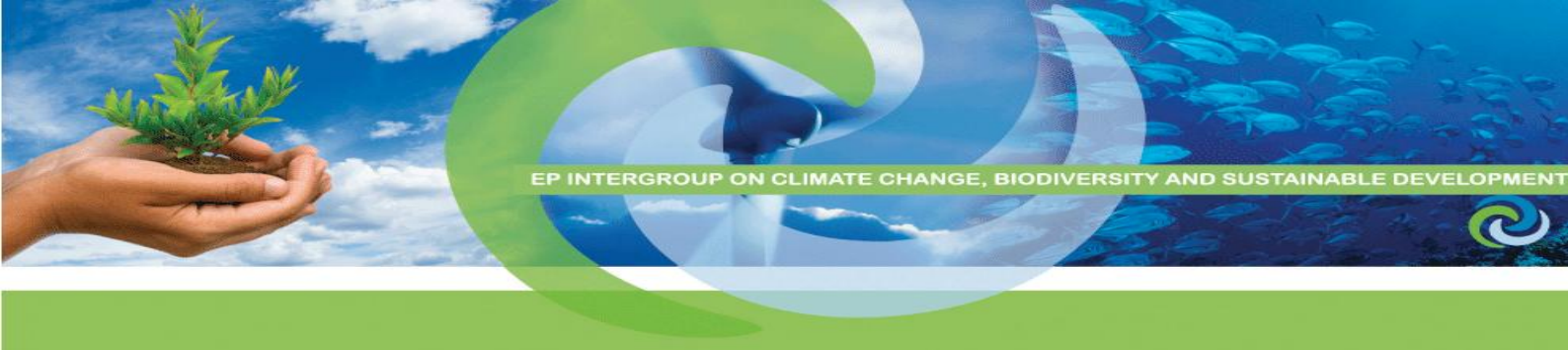
Director for Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Research and Innovation
DG ENER, European Commission

At the UNFCCC COP21, 195 countries agreed on the first universal and legally-binding global climate deal, also highlighting the role of forests and sustainable forest management (SFM) in mitigating climate change. Earlier, in October 2014, EU leaders agreed on a new policy framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets for the period between 2020 and 2030. By end-November 2016, the Commission is expected to announce an updated sustainable bioenergy policy as part of a renewable energy package for the period after 2020.

European forests and forest-based products have a great potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. Recent research indicates that each year Europe’s forests and harvested wood products, including their substitution effect (using biomass to replace fossil fuels or other highly energy consuming materials), compensate approximately 13 % of the EU’s total CO₂ emissions. Bioenergy currently represents 60% of the EU’s total consumption of renewables. The majority of bioenergy is generated from biomass from sustainably managed forests and can be used for heating, electricity generation and transport fuels. Currently, woody biomass from forests and residues is the largest source of renewables in Europe and its share is expected to grow by 2030.

The Paris Agreement sets out a plan to effectively decarbonize economies by mid-century. State forests are well positioned to be at the core of the EU climate change agenda and can play a leading role in the development of a vibrant European bioeconomy.

The event will gather high-level policymakers, state forest management representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the potential of European forests and forest-based products to be at the core of the EU climate change and energy agenda, focusing in particular on the solutions and approaches implemented by state forest management organizations.



- 08:15** **Welcome coffee**
- 08.30-08.45** Welcome and introduction by **Pavel Poc MEP, Chair of the Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”** and **Jytte Guteland MEP, Member of the Committee of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**
- 08:45-08.55** Opening remarks by **Per-Olof Wedin, President, European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)**
- 08.55-09.05** Video message from **Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development**
- 09.05-09.15** Keynote speech by **Marie Donnelly, Director for Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Research and Innovation, DG ENER, European Commission**
- 09.15-09.25** Intervention by **Claudia Olazábal, Head of Unit “Land Use and Management”, DG ENV, European Commission**
- 09:25-09:35** “Forest Biomass, Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change Mitigation,” outcomes of the latest From Science to Policy report, presented by **Marcus Lindner, European Forest Institute**
- 09.35-10.25** **Contributions from European state forest management organizations:**
- Mr Olof Johansson** – Director of Silviculture and Environment, Sveaskog, Sweden
Mr Daniel Szórád – CEO, Lesy České Republiky, Czech Republic
Mr Pentti Hyttinen – CEO, Metsähallitus, Finland
Mr Roland Kautz – Head of CEO’s Cabinet, Österreichische Bundesforste, Austria
- 10.25-10.50** **Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 10.50-11.00** Concluding remarks by **Pavel Poc MEP, Chair of the Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”** and **Jytte Guteland MEP, Member of the Committee of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**