



# Forest-based Bioeconomy and EU's Bioeconomy Strategy

**Thursday 1 June 2017**  
**08.00-09.30**  
**Members Salon**  
**European Parliament, Brussels**

Hosted by

**Miapetra Kumpula-Natri MEP**

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

With

**The Natural Resources Institute Finland**

## Draft Agenda

In 2012, the European Commission adopted the strategy *Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe*, - including agriculture, forestry, fisheries food and chemicals - stressed the importance of the bioeconomy sector as it provides an annual turnover in Europe of € 2 trillion employing around 22 million people. Forest-based bioeconomy is an important player in the picture as the forest-based industries have a production value of € 365 billion providing more than 3 million jobs.

Since its adoption, the EU's Bioeconomy Strategy has provided an important backbone for European policies and R&D funding in the bioeconomy sector. Development in the forest-based bioeconomy has been impressive, and forest based industry is currently under an extensive transformation to an innovative multiproduct industry targeting to material, textile, and chemical sectors. For example since its adoption, Europe's tallest wooden-frame building has gone from 10 to 20 stories. By 2030, it is envisaged that the wood-working industries has tripled its market share<sup>1</sup>. In addition wood-based textiles production has increased as well as the nano-cellulose as its first practical applications have been found.

Demonstrating the importance of the sector, several EU Member States have prepared or are currently preparing national bioeconomy strategies. In a world of ever increasing competition of scarce natural resources and conflicting interests, it is important that Europe addresses holistic sustainability and keeps working towards sustainable industrial development, fulfilling its climate change and biodiversity targets, and contributing to Europe's competitiveness. Forest-based bioeconomy plays an important role in this delicate balance and - with the right measures and wise policies - can increasingly do so in the future.



- 08:00-08.05** Welcome and introduction by **MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri**
- 08:05-08.15** Keynote speech by **Waldemar Kütt, Head of Strategy Unit, DG RTD, European Commission**
- 08.15-08.25** Forest-based bioeconomy in the framework of holistic sustainability by **Mari Walls, President and CEO, Natural Resources Institute Finland**
- 08.25-09.20** Exchange and discussion moderated by **MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri**

#### **Intervention from Stakeholders**

- **Confederation of European forest owners, Secretary General Emma Berglund**
- **University of Eastern Finland Rector Jukka Mönkkönen**
- **European Bioeconomy Alliance, Bernard de Galembert**
- **European state forest association, Stewardship and Risk Director at Coillte, Ciaran Fallon,**
- **The European confederation of woodworking industries, Secretary General Patrizio Antonicoli**
- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature, EU Programme Manager Nature Based Solutions, Chantal van Ham**

#### **Reactions from MEPs and the Commission**

- 09.25-09.30** Concluding remarks by the **Chair**