





# Connecting knowledge to action

16 May 2019  
To the Members and member organisations of EFI

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Dear Colleagues,

This week, the spring Board meeting was held in a very special location: the farm of Mr Göran Persson, surrounded by boreal forests and lakes. The Board proposed this location in order to directly thank Mr Persson, and recognise him as an EFI Fellow for his outstanding leadership of ThinkForest and his contribution to EFI becoming recognised as a leading science-policy platform.

During the last seven years, I have had the privilege to work closely with Mr Persson, from whom I have learned a lot about many things. Two years ago, we were both sitting in his tractor at his farm discussing and I asked him a straight question: “Göran, what makes a very good politician?” He replied: “Timing, the intuition to know when it is time for an idea or action.” Looking back seven years it is clear that Göran Persson could see that forests were moving towards the centre of the political agenda and that there was a need to develop a new and efficient science-policy platform: ThinkForest. I would like to thank him for his dedication, curiosity and compelling passion. [Here you can find his farewell words](#), spoken at his last ThinkForest event in April.

Over the next few weeks, we will announce the new ThinkForest President, who I am sure will further develop ThinkForest and support EFI in continuing to grow as a science-policy platform.

This week in Sweden we also launched a new EFI Research Network, coordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) with the support of the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE). This new Research Network will contribute to the implementation of the EFI Bioeconomy Strategy theme, focusing on promoting and conducting forest bioeconomy research and networking activities with special emphasis on northern Europe. The Network will establish strong cooperation with the Bioeconomy programme coordinated from Joensuu, and it will address questions related to the sustainable provision of biomass, the supply and demand of bio-based products and potential trade-offs and synergies with relevant ecosystem services. More information: Research Network Coordinator, Camilla Widmark ([camilla.widmark@efi.int](mailto:camilla.widmark@efi.int)).

I would like to highlight that EFI Research Networks are crucial for implementing the EFI Strategy. They empower those EFI members willing to take the lead, be proactive and contribute with their own resources to the development of EFI! My warm thanks to them!

Finally, I would like to remind you that this year's Annual Conference takes place in September in Aberdeen, hosted by our member organization, the James Hutton Institute. During the conference

we will discuss important questions like the new EFI Governance Programme and the future European forest research area, including the importance of building cooperation with China, as well as open science and data. The Scientific Seminar will focus on the challenges and opportunities for plantation forests and native forests in delivering multiple ecosystem benefits in a changing climate. More information and registration: <https://www.efi.int/membership/ac/2019>

Wishing you a productive spring,

Marc Palahí

