

# Connecting knowledge to action

19 June 2019

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:



Dear Colleagues,

Last week we celebrated EFI week, a gathering of all EFI staff in Barcelona to discuss the why, how and what behind EFI's Strategy and next year's plans. EFI staff, with their diversity, energy and talent are the best asset for EFI's successful future. During the week we discussed our science-policy work, emerging topics like biocities, the future Governance programme and our new science-media partnerships among many other things. I would like to thank all our staff for their great work and commitment as well as the inspiring discussions in Barcelona!

Also inspiring is the fact that **Janez Potočnik**, former EU Commissioner for both Science and Research, and Environment has become the new president of EFI's high-level discussion forum, ThinkForest. Mr Potočnik is currently Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel hosted by UNEP and he is one of the key figures and originators of the circular economy concept. I believe that Mr Potočnik is the right President for ThinkForest because one of the most important tasks ahead is to connect the circular economy and the bioeconomy to ensure they mutually reinforce each other and together have enough scale to replace our current linear fossil economy. He has also the right understanding and networks to maximise the impact of EFI science-policy work at the European and international level.

I would also like to mention that a few weeks ago I signed a very strategic agreement with the Director of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), **Robert Nasi**, in order to join forces on research, including the role of sustainable forest management in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to better connect science to policy action. We believe that this agreement will help put forests and forest science front and centre on the global development agenda.

Finally, I would like to wish you a relaxing summer break, and I hope to see you at this year's Annual Conference in Aberdeen. During the conference we will discuss the new EFI Governance Programme, 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: <https://www.efi.int/membership/ac/2019>

Wishing you a nice summer,  
Marc Palahí