





Connecting knowledge to action

20.06.2018

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:    

Dear colleagues,

A Japanese proverb says “Vision without action is just dreaming, but action without vision is a nightmare”.

I believe that leadership needs to be based on this symbiosis between vision and action, especially given the complex, changing environment we are living in. If you miss out one of the two, you will fail. I am really proud that EFI focuses on both. For example, we are leading in shaping the bioeconomy vision and providing new and critical thinking for action towards its realisation.

This year we have worked hard to continue reflecting on the bioeconomy and especially on what it means in terms of strategies, roadmaps and actions for different parts of Europe. To successfully transform the vision of the bioeconomy into real action it needs to be painted with regional and local colours. EFI has therefore been active regionally, for instance producing **a report on the forest bioeconomy for southern Europe**. In May I participated in the St Petersburg International Economic Forum to discuss a roadmap for Russia towards a circular bioeconomy.

This month EFI has also had the great pleasure of hosting the Irish Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, Andrew Doyle. He visited Helsinki and Joensuu to discuss the potential of the forest bioeconomy, and related policy and business developments in Europe and Finland. The visit was organised together with the Irish Embassy in Helsinki, and was a good example of the role EFI can play in bridging two of our Member Countries and providing a European and forward-looking perspective. We would like to encourage any of our Member Countries interested in a similar type of visit to contact us.

I hope I can meet you in September in Sardinia during our Annual Conference where you will learn more about recent and future EFI developments and we will enjoy a very interesting Scientific Seminar on Forests interconnecting Sustainable Development Goals to action, plus many other surprises.

Wishing all of you a good Midsummer and summer holidays.

Marc Palahí
Director