





# Connecting knowledge to action

27 February 2020

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

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Dear Colleagues,

It has been a while since I sent my last Director's letter last year, and it is time to share with you some new developments at EFI. First of all, I would like to inform you that this year we have three new Heads taking on important responsibilities at EFI: [Valerie Merckx](#), leading the FLEGT-REDD Unit; [Rach Colling](#), new Head of EFI Communications; and [Elisabeth Pötzelsberger](#) who will start in August as the new Head of the Resilience Programme. I warmly welcome them, and I hope you will have a chance to work closely with them!

Second, I would also like to announce that I have been appointed by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to the Sustainable Markets Expert Network, established by HRH with the support of the World Economic Forum. The [Sustainable Markets Initiative](#), which was launched in Davos last month, provides EFI with new possibilities to connect with economic and academic actors as well as NGOs. I recommend to you [a recent CNN interview with His Royal Highness](#), as he reflects on the importance of the circular bioeconomy and forest-based solutions as a basis for a new economic model. I am delighted to report also that His Royal Highness will host the Circular Bioeconomy Investment Forum in June 2020, which will be organised by EFI in partnership with Sitra, the World Economic Forum and CIFOR.

This spring we have as well other exciting events; one this week on [Forests for multiple ecosystem services](#) organised by our Resilience Programme in Bonn, as well as a timely Thinkforest event in Brussels in March to discuss the [future of forest policy in the EU](#) in the context of the new Green Deal. Two former Primer Ministers, Felipe González from Spain and Göran Persson, from Sweden will share their views on this important subject.

Finally, on 9 March we will launch a new EFI initiative, the [Bioregions Facility](#), which aims to support regions in Europe to advance their forest bioeconomy, based on European science, policy and innovation collaboration. Much more news will follow over the next few months!

Stay tuned, stay active!

*Marc Palahí*