







4.9.2017

To Members and Member Organisations of EFI

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Dear colleagues,

I hope you have been able to enjoy your summer holidays! I am writing this letter to you in the city of Bonn. Here, on the 29th of August, the new EFI office was inaugurated and we were pleased to have Mr. Christian Schmidt, the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture join us for the occasion.

This new office is a major institutional development for the future of our organization as it positions EFI and what EFI represents at the heart of Europe and at the center of the UN debate on climate and sustainable development. I believe that our presence in Bonn will have long-term positive implications in recognizing the importance of forests, forest science and sustainable forest management in addressing key environmental challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss. The new office is a fantastic platform to implement our EFI mission: connecting knowledge to action!

The EFI Bonn office hosts our Resilience Programme. The scope and activities of both the Resilience and Bioeconomy Programmes, established as part of our new strategy, will be presented in our next Annual Conference in Oslo. There you will also be able to learn about the External Evaluation of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support and discuss its future development. Furthermore, a new EFI funding instrument (the EFI Network Fund) and other opportunities exclusive for our Associate and Affiliate Members will be presented. The background documents for the Annual Conference will be available on our website by the 19th of September.

I hope that as many of you as possible come to Oslo and engage in discussing the increasing opportunities that EFI offers you. See more information on the Annual Conference [here](#).

Finally, I would also like to inform you that [EUFORGEN](#) and EFI have started negotiations with the aim that EFI will host the EUFORGEN secretariat from 2018 onwards. Such development will reinforce EFI's position as a unique European science-policy platform connecting forest knowledge to action.

With my best wishes for an inspiring autumn!

Marc Palahí

Director