





Connecting knowledge to action

7 July 2021

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

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Dear Colleagues,

The post-2020 **EU Forest Strategy** is currently under preparation by the European Commission. This process is taking place at the time when the debate on the role of European forests in addressing the grand societal challenges of our time: climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable development, etc is more polarised than ever. In this context, the role of science is crucial to ensure a science-informed dialogue that results in sound policies and sustainable action. EFI, during the last weeks, has produced some important reports to inform policymaking on some of the crucial elements within the new Strategy. For instance, in a [new study](#) the latest scientific evidence on why, what and how to protect **old-growth forests in Europe** is discussed to support the ongoing policy discussions on this important matter. We have also produced a [science-to-policy brief on Forest Biodiversity in Europe](#) that synthesises what we know about the status, drivers and potential actions to enhance biodiversity on European forests. These reports have been discussed in several informal meetings with representatives of the Commission that we hope will contribute to a better-informed Strategy.

I believe that we urgently need [a visionary and actionable post-2020 EU Forest Strategy](#) because this decade we will face an **unprecedented forest situation** as a result of the combined effect of unprecedented climate-driven risks affecting our forests and the unprecedented opportunities for the forest-based sector to decarbonize our economy. This situation calls for forest science and forest information to become a central pillar of the new Strategy and its future implementation. In that context, I am very pleased to announce that Prof. Gerardo Chirici from the University of Florence, Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry, and Director of the geoLAB – Laboratory of Forest Geomatics will lead the [EFINET](#) – The European Forest Information Network project funded by the EFI Network Fund.

Wishing you a very relaxing holidays,
Marc