



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE

27 April 2023

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Dear colleagues,

After leading the Institute for the last nine years, it is time for me to look for new challenges. Leaving EFI has not been an easy decision, as my whole professional life has been connected to the Institute.

I started my work at EFI in the year 2000 as junior researcher, conducting my PhD in connection to the MEDFOREX Project Centre. The so-called Project Centres were established that year to increase the ownership of EFI by Associate Members and support the internationalization of the Institute's activities, at a time when EFI was only present in Joensuu (Finland).

After finishing my PhD in 2002, I moved to Barcelona to lead MEDFOREX, which 5 years later gave birth to the first EFI office outside Finland: the Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED. In the following years, I was also appointed Assistant Director for Policy Support and then Deputy Director... I can say that I have developed both professionally and personally, very much in synchrony with EFI. I have been very lucky to work in such a special organization.

I also believe that my departure arrives at the right moment, after the great development of the Institute on all fronts and with a diversity of well-functioning structures and projects, as well as excellent financial stability and what is most important for a knowledge organisation: extremely inspiring and talented staff. In addition, I truly believe that a change in leadership is a fundamental process in any organisation to ensure its credibility, regeneration and sustainability.

In the coming months, I will be moving to London to work on a new and exciting project! But collaboration with EFI and many of you will continue...

Therefore, I don't say goodbye, just hasta la vista!

Marc