

FOREST PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH EVENT



FOREST PARTNERSHIP
LAUNCH EVENT –
STARTING A NEW
EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FORESTS AND THE
FOREST-BASED SECTOR
13 - 14 OCTOBER 2026
HELSINKI, FINLAND



Agenda

FOREST Partnership Launch Event 13 – 15 October 2026

Helsinki Congress Paasitorni

[Paasivuorenkatu 5 A, FIN-00530 Helsinki](#)

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<https://www.paasitorni.fi/en/>

All times are in local time (Helsinki, EEST / UTC+3)

DAY 1 | PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS DAY | 13 OCTOBER

Public event: in person and online (link will be shared few days prior to the event)

09:00 - 09:35 | Opening & Purpose

Host Welcome

- **Sari Essayah**, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- **Pekka Pesonen**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Opening Words (Online)

- **Henri Delanghe**, Head of Research and Innovation Unit, DG AGRI, European Commission

Keynote Address

- **Roland Brandenburg**, Coordinator, ERA-LEARN

Purposes of the Day

- **Mika Kallio**, Coordinator, FOREST Partnership
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09:35 - 10:35 | The FOREST Partnership in Practice

The Basics of FOREST

- **Alex Giurca**, EUFORE Project
- **Tony Quinn**, FOREST Partnership

Activities of the FOREST Partnership

- **Management, Strategic Orientation and Ethics** WP 1 and 8 Mika Kallio
- **Horizon Scanning and SRIA Updates** WP2 Tony Quinn

- **Research & Innovation Calls** WP3 Carina Lemke
- **Additional Activities** WP4 Stefanie Pietsch
- **Global Dimension** WP5 Georg Rappold
- **Communication, Dissemination and Stakeholder Engagement** WP 6 Clémence Dirac
- **Exploitation** WP 7 Isabelle Hippolyte

10:35 - 11:00 | Coffee Break

Poster Exhibition & Marketplace

11:00 - 12:45 | Stakeholder Panels

Panel 1: The Needs of Forest and Timber Stakeholders

- **Dina Loghin**, European Women's Lobby
- **Joris Van Acker**, WoodStock Project and UGent-Woodlab
- **Allina Lehtikoinen**, Confederation of European Forest Owners

Panel 2: Expectations Towards the Partnership

- **Piotr Borkowski**, European State Forest Association
- **Jermie Crespín**, DG Agriculture and Rural Development European Commission
- **Matthew Schwarzkopf**, International Society of Wood Science and Technology

Panel 3: Future Collaboration

- **Silvia Melegari**, European Confederation of Woodworking Industries
- **Sven Walter**, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **Marjana Westergren**, OptFORESTS Project

12:45 - 14:15 | Lunch

Poster Exhibition & Marketplace

14:15 - 15:30 | Expectations and Needs from Different Stakeholder Groups

Timber Value Chain Stakeholders

- **Saurabh Jain**, Built by Nature

Policy Stakeholders

- **Xuehong Wang**, UNFCCC

Nature Conservation Stakeholders

- **Boris Erg**, IUCN

Research Stakeholders

- **Alex Giurca**, EFI

Forest and Timber Networks

- **Álvaro Picardo**, Laurus Network
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15:30 - 16:00 | Coffee Break

Poster Exhibition & Marketplace

16:00 - 17:00 | Fishbowl Discussion

The Global Dimension of the FOREST Partnership

Karen Deprie • Raphaela Hellmayr

17:00 - 17:15 | Closing Session

- **Diego Canga Fano** (Online), Deputy Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
 - **Mika Kallio**, Coordinator, FOREST Partnership
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19:00 | Networking Dinner
