



To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Joensuu 28 January 2016

Dear colleagues,

Let me start by wishing you a very healthy and fruitful year. The year has started with promising meetings in Brussels, following on from meetings I had last year with Commissioners Carlos Moedas (Research, Science and Innovation) and Phil Hogan (Agriculture and Rural Development). The role EFI's network plays in supporting the science-policy dialogue around forest-related questions is increasingly appreciated.

In his December letter, the Chair of the EFI Board announced the need to update the EFI Strategy in order to adapt to our rapidly changing operating environment as well as to build on our recent successful developments. Information on the rationale and roadmap for developing the new Strategy can be found [here](#).

A clear example of a major development in our operating environment is the recent global climate agreement. The Paris COP21 sent out a 'transformational' message, *the transition towards a low carbon economy is irreversible, the post-petroleum era is starting*. This is an era where intelligent and sustainable use of biological resources will be vital – not only to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, food and water security, but also to provide economic opportunities. With a new Strategy we aim at gaining a central role in addressing these great societal challenges.

We are now at the start of the strategy development process. As we are an international member-based organisation, your input to the strategy is crucial. We would like to have your views on the relevance of different topics and types of activities to help us frame our strategic focus. To provide your views, **please fill in the web-based survey found at: [here](#)**. It will only take you around 15 minutes and enables you to shape the future of EFI. Please, **reply by 15th of February 2016**.

There will also be opportunities to give your input later, e.g., at the forthcoming Extraordinary Council meeting and the Annual Conference.

Warm regards,

Marc Palahí
Director
European Forest Institute