



# Forests & Climate:

## The impact of forests and forestry on the EU Climate and Energy policy

24 January 2017 - 08.00-09.30

Members Salon

European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by:

**Elisabeth Köstinger MEP**

*Chair of the "Sustainable Forest Management" Working Group*

*Keynote Speech by*

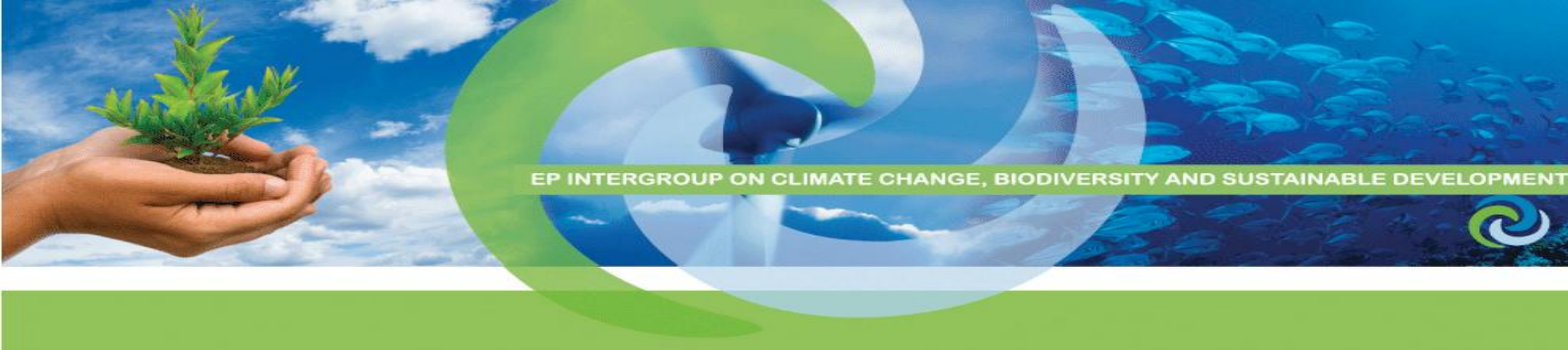
**Artur Runge-Metzger**

*Director for "Climate Strategy, Governance and Emissions from non-trading sectors", DG Climate Action, European Commission*

Forests and sustainable forest management (SFM) continue to be firmly on the international climate change agenda. The Paris Agreement sets out a plan to effectively decarbonize economies by mid-century. European forests and forest-based products are well positioned to be at the core of the EU climate change agenda and can help to diversify the energy supply, lower greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs and growth in rural areas. The "New EU Forest Strategy: for forests and the forest-based sector" aims at putting forests and the forest sector at the centre of the path towards a green bio-based economy and giving value to the benefits that forests can sustainably deliver.

It is of utmost importance that sustainable and multifunctional forest management is recognized by EU policies as an important part of the global solution for climate change mitigation. Future policy design must allow European forests and the forestry sector to realize their full potential. Forests and forest-based products should be integrated in the 2030 climate policy framework in a way that takes into account the special features of forests and their management, thus allowing the sector to effectively contribute to mitigate climate change at its full potential.

This conference will bring together policy-makers, experts, stakeholders and representatives of the civil society to illustrate and discuss the contribution that the forest sector can provide to climate change mitigation, and how this can be effectively implemented at the European level.



## DRAFT AGENDA

- 08.00-08.05** Welcome and introduction by **Elisabeth Köstinger MEP**  
Chair of the “Sustainable Forest Management” Working Group
- 08:05-08.15** Keynote speech by **Artur Runge-Metzger, Director for “Climate Strategy, Governance and Emissions from non-trading sectors”, DG Climate Action, European Commission**
- 08:15-08.25** Scientific presentation on the contribution of Forests to Climate Change mitigation – **Professor Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Wageningen University**
- 08.25-08.35** Sustainable Forest Management and its contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation – The case of Estonia: **Aigar Kallas, CEO Estonian State Forest Enterprise (RMK)/ European State Forests Association (EUSTAFOR)**
- 08.35-08.45** Sustainable Forest Management and its contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation – The case of Croatia: **Zdenko Bogovic, President of the Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners' Associations/ Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)**
- 08:45-08:55** Intervention by **Sini Eräjää, EU Bioenergy Policy Officer, Birdlife International**
- 08.55-09.25** **Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 09.25-09.30** Concluding remarks by **Elisabeth Köstinger MEP**  
Chair of the “Sustainable Forest Management” Working Group