



## "Our Forests, Our Future" Sustainable forest management to address societal challenges

Brussels, 25 – 26 April 2019

### Draft programme

#### **25 April 2019**

Registration from 8.30h to 9.30h

**9.30h – 10.30h Opening session - Setting the scene: The contribution of forests and the forest sector to EU priorities and targets, taking stock of the review of the EU Forest Strategy**

**10.30h -11.00h Coffee break**

**11.00h – 12.30h First session: Contribution of the forest sector to innovation, growth and jobs. Opportunities and challenges for the bioeconomy**

Panel discussion:

With the increase in demand for wood-based renewable energy, the search for bio-based materials in industry and the chemical sector and the drive towards zero carbon buildings and products, is the price and value of wood and wood-based products set for continued growth?

**12.30h – 14.00h Lunch break**

**14.00h – 15.30h Second session: Forests and the Paris Agreement: Opportunities and challenges for the forest sector. The Paris Agreement contains the long-term objective of balancing GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the second half of the century; What will be the role of forests and the forest sector in achieving this objective?**

Panel discussion:

- Initiatives related to capturing and storing the carbon potential of forests: Can the value of carbon underpin the economic argument for planting trees?
- Potential of forests in future carbon off-setting schemes

**15.30h - 16.00h Coffee break**

**16.00h – 17.30h Third session:** Forests and the health of the Earth: Healthy forest ecosystems provide habitats for animals and plants, play a major role in adapting to climate change, in biodiversity conservation and in preventing and combating desertification, providing also water and soil protection and protection from natural hazards, and delivering other environmental services. They also provide other multiple benefits to society, including benefits for human health, recreation and tourism.

Panel discussion:

What mechanisms for safeguarding and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services through forests? How to foster markets for ecosystem services?

## **26 April 2019**

**9.00h -10.30h Fourth Session:** Protecting forests and promoting sustainable forest management at global level: Through different initiatives (REDD+, FLEGT, Timber Regulation) the EU and the Member States are contributing to combat deforestation and forest degradation at global level, and the Commission is currently preparing further action in this area.

Panel discussion:

How to develop and implement effective actions and measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation?

**10.30h -11.00h Coffee break**

**11.00h -12.30h Fifth Session: Tree planting in action**

– Presentation and discussion on successful tree-planting campaigns

**13.00h – 14.00h Tree Planting Ceremony**

Children from EU Member States will be invited to plant trees in a closing ceremony. Closing remarks by Commissioner Phil Hogan