



Embassy of Finland  
Washington D.C.



EUROPEAN UNION

## **The Role of Forest Bioeconomy in the Green Economy Transition**

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Wednesday May 27, 2020

8:00AM-10:30AM EDT (Washington DC)

2:00PM-4:30PM CET (Brussels) | 3:00PM-5:30PM GMT+3 (Helsinki)

### **Opening Session**

Opening remarks by Ambassadors of EU and Finland to the United States, on European engagement to climate action and decarbonizing the economy, and a green post-COVID-19 recovery, the role of sustainable forest bioeconomy as well as potential for transatlantic cooperation in this sector. Moderators remarks on prospects of sustainable forest bioeconomy in the US and transatlantic cooperation.

8:00-8:05am	Opening words and introduction of program by moderator: Ms. Dana Eidsness, Director, Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO)
8:05-8:10am	H.E. Kirsti Kauppi, Ambassador of Finland to the US
8:10-8:15am	H.E. Stavros Lambrinidis, Ambassador of the EU to the US

### **Panel 1: A Policy-Maker's Take on the Role of Forest Bioeconomy in the Green Economy Transition**

Policy-Makers from both sides of the Atlantic share their views on the role of sustainable forest bioeconomy in the transition towards carbon-neutral economies. Whether it be complementing existing production methods and repurposing industries into creating innovative bio-based products or ensuring sustainable forest management: what tools are there in the policy-maker's toolbox and how can we share best practices better?

8:15-8:25am	Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland
8:25-8:35am	Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
8:35-8:45am	Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
8:45-8:55am	Ms. Amanda Beal, Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, State of Maine



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- 8:55-9:05am Ms. Shannon Hanna, Natural Resources Deputy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- 9:05-9:20am Moderated discussion between panelists and questions from the audience

## **Panel 2: Creating a Business Case and Catalyzing Green Growth in Sustainable Forest Bioeconomy**

New and innovative bio-based products are coming to the market fast to replace fossil-based alternatives. Exciting ways to develop the forest bioeconomy emerge while at the same time research into forests and climate change is undertaken in Europe and the US to ensure sustainable use of renewable resources. Strategies are in place on both sides of the Atlantic. Where are we in terms of future prospects for this sector? How could we best find ways to boost green growth through cooperating more on forest bioeconomy?

- 9:20-9:27am Mr. Peter Wehrheim, Head of the Unit, Bioeconomy and Food Systems, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- 9:27-9:34am Mr. Antti Asikainen, Executive Vice President of Research, Natural Resources Institute Finland
- 9:34-9:41am Ms. Donna LaCourt, Economic/Community Development Specialist, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- 9:41-9:48am Mr. Jarmo Heinonen, Senior Director, Bio- Circular Economy and Cleantech, Business Finland
- 9:48-9:55am Mr. Peter MacKeith, Dean and Professor of Architecture, University of Arkansas
- 9:55-10:02am Ms. Charlotte Mace, Director, Office of Business Development from the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development
- 10:02-10:20am Moderated discussion between panelists and questions from the audience

### **Concluding remarks by moderator**

- 10:20am Prospects for transatlantic cooperation in sustainable forest bioeconomy