

Dear Colleagues,

Today's discussion has made one thing very clear: Europe's forests stand at a crossroads. Our forests are increasingly exposed to climate change impacts—from droughts and storms to pests and wildfires—yet at the same time they remain one of our most important assets for resilience, climate action, and sustainable development.

Today we have heard valuable insights from policymakers, practitioners, industry representatives, and researchers. A key shared message is that resilience does not happen by itself. It requires active, adaptive, and sustainable forest management, supported by innovation, investment, and strong forest-based value chains.

Equally important is the need to connect policies and sectors. Forest resilience, industrial competitiveness, rural development, and climate objectives must be addressed together through coherent and cross-sectoral approaches.

The discussions today highlighted that the forest-based bioeconomy plays a central role in this transition—creating value, enabling adaptation, and supporting long-term investments in resilient forests.

Looking ahead, cooperation will be essential. Across Europe, we need closer collaboration between forest owners, managers, industry, and policymakers to ensure that our forests—and the value chains built around them—remain resilient, sustainable, and competitive.

Let me conclude by thanking all speakers and participants for your valuable contributions and open dialogue. And of course, thanks also for our organizing Team. I hope that today's roundtable has provided at least a small step forward in shaping a more resilient future for Europe's forests.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive continuation of discussions over lunch.

***Juha Niemelä,***

*Metsähallitus*