

Climate Change and Forest Fires in Europe

Brussels, 20th March 2019 • 2.30 – 5.30pm

European Parliament – Room JAN 2Q2

Hosted by MEPs Nuno Melo and Andrzej Grzyb

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The event will address the link between climate change and forest fires, which are likely to become more frequent in the coming decades, and how sustainable forest management can contribute to tackle this issue.

There seems to be a clear trend towards longer fire seasons compared to previous years, with fires now occurring well beyond the summer period, and the fire risk is projected to change almost everywhere in Europe. In 2018, forest fires have heavily affected, among others, Sweden, the UK, Ireland, Finland, and Latvia; countries in which forest fires have not been a concern in past years.

Extreme fires can release huge amounts of CO² in a very short time.

They do not just burn up trees and shrubs and emit smoke. They impact European citizen's life and properties and also leave behind long-lasting changes on the ground. Those changes have effects on the climate, including by damaging forests that would otherwise sequester carbon.

The event will provide insights on the state of play of forest fire events in Europe and discuss the reasons for these developments. It will also highlight the urgent need to boost prevention and preparedness efforts, through active sustainable forest management, to avoid a repetition of the previous years.

Programme

Moderated by

- **Inazio Martínez de Arano**, Head of EFI-MED office

13:30

Registration

14:30

Opening by MEP Nuno Melo

14:40

Setting the scene

- Climate change, forest fire and GHG emissions: current situation
Jesús San-Miguel-Ayanz, Senior Scientist, JRC
- Expert views from a Southern perspective
João Soveral, Portuguese Farmers Confederation, Portugal
- Q&A

15:15

Panel 1 • Climate change and forest fire risks

- EU Actions to fight Climate Change in the context of forest fires
Artur Runge-Metzger, Director DG CLIMA
- Forest at higher risk of forest fires -
Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director DG ENV
- Bee2FireDetection
Pedro Vieira, Compta Emerging Business (CEB)
- Expert views from a Northern perspective
Karin Perers, Mellanskog Family Forest Association, Sweden
- Q&A

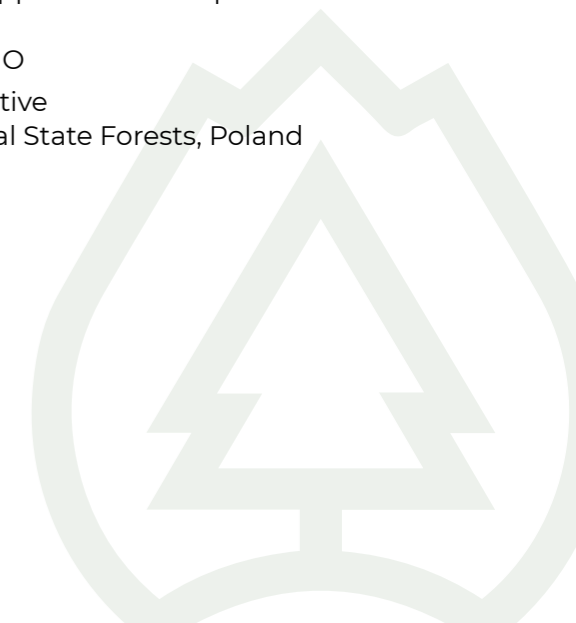
16:15

Panel 2 • Sustainable Forest Management, forest fire prevention and preparedness

- Research & Innovation for firesmart policies and management in the EU
John Bell, Director DG RTD
- The role of the CAP and the EU Forest Strategy
Pierre Bascou, Director DG AGRI
- Policy actions and instruments to support forest fire prevention and preparedness
Johannes Luchner, Director DG ECHO
- Expert views from a Eastern perspective
Damian Zielinski, Directorate General State Forests, Poland
- Q&A

17:15

Closing by MEP **Andrzej Grzyb**





Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



The Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) is the umbrella association of national forest owner organisations in Europe. Representing family forestry in Europe, CEPF promotes the values of sustainable forest management, private property ownership and the economic viability of the forest sector.



The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) represents state forest companies, enterprises and agencies that have sustainable forest management and sustainable wood production as major concerns. The Association currently has 34 members in 24 European countries.



The European Landowners Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the EU28, which represents the interests of the landowners, land managers, rural entrepreneurs and family businesses at the European political level.