

Brussels, 2 May 2022

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

We would like to thank you again for the positive and constructive meeting that took place on 7th April. We very much welcome the fact that this meeting has opened up a direct dialogue between yourself and European forest owners, dialogue which is highly needed in the context of the many EU policy developments related to forests.

This meeting made it possible to show many points of convergence between our organisations and your point of view, including the need to balance the three equally important dimensions (environmental, social and economic) of the sustainability triangle and to develop a strong bioeconomy both in terms of quantity and quality. We were also pleased and reassured to hear you state that European forest owners have a key role to play to deliver on the multiple functions of forests, including ecological functions; that coherence should be ensured among EU policies concerning forests and that forest practices are not and cannot be the same everywhere given forests' diversity.

There are also still certain issues that warrant further discussion, such as the understanding of forest ownership rights and obligations or the definition of more environmentally friendly practices.

Overall, our organisations share your opinion that, although there may be divergent views related to policy options, there is a need to develop a common understanding on forests based on underlying science and available data, thanks to an open discussion between all relevant stakeholders. Our organisations and their members are ready to take part in this initiative should it be undertaken by the Commission.

We are very much looking forward to continuing this dialogue with you and would happily organise our next meeting on forests for autumn. We would gladly fit this around your schedule if you would kindly suggest potential dates to us. Meanwhile, our organisations and their members will do their best to keep providing input to help define and implement EU policies.

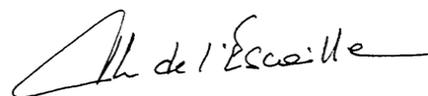
Sincerely yours,



Fanny-Pomme Langue
Secretary General, CEPF



Pekka Pesonen
Secretary General, Copa-Cogeca



Thierry de l'Escaille
Secretary General, ELO