PressRelease

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The Forest-based Sector launches its revised Vision for 2030 and renewed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for 2020

The 8th FTP conference, held in Barcelona on 12-13 March, saw the launch of the forest-based sector’s revised Vision for 2030 and renewed Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for 2020 (SRA). The updated Vision document sets its sights on a changing world with an ever increasing need for sustainable and resource-efficient production of biomass and products, whilst the SRA will map the way to achieving this objective; the forest-based sector is strongly positioning itself as a key actor and enabler of the evolving biobased society.

Over 200 experts, researchers, industry representatives and policy-makers, from 25 countries, participated in this 2-day event to debate and discuss the future of the forest-based sector, what kind of contribution it could and should make to the biobased economy and to discover new trends in research and innovation.

A pre-conference Early-stage Researcher’s Forum, organised jointly by FTP and COST, saw an overwhelming response for participation; an outstanding 180 eligible proposals were received. 20 proposals were selected for oral presentations and 56 proposals were selected for poster presentations. The event gave young researchers not only the opportunity to present results of their research work but also to network with industry representatives at European level.

A number of high-level speakers offered their comments and reflexions on future prospects for the European forest-based sector, including Göran Persson (President ThinkForest, former Prime Minister of Sweden), Alfonso Beltrán García-Echániz (Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness), Josep María Pelegri (Catalan Minister for Agriculture and Forestry), Ignacio de Colmenares (CEO ENCE), Philipp zu Guttenberg (President German Forest Owners’ Association), Riikka Joukio (Senior Vice-President, Metsä Group), Kimmo
Järvinen (Secretary General EOS), Duncan Mayes (Senior Vice-President Stora Enso) and Anders Wijkman (Co-President of the Club of Rome).

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) was set up in 2005 to define a vision for the future of the sector and to identify priority areas for innovation and research. It is one of 36 recognised European Technology Platforms (ETPs), established as industry-led initiatives encouraged by the European Commission to define research objectives and roadmaps for delivering the agreed goals.

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Related links

FTP website: www.forestplatform.org
Conference website: www.ftp-c8.eu