







Speakers' Biographies

	<p>Keith Fryer</p>
	<p>Host and Moderator, Past President UK Timber Trade Federation</p> <p><i>Keith Fryer, 62, has worked within the timber industry, including importing, machining and manufacturing, latterly running his own companies centred on timber merchanting.</i></p> <p><i>A Past President of the UK TTF (now called TDUK) and a Board Member of CEI Bois, Chairing their Trade Working Group, Keith has a keen involvement in developing European timber trading relationships.</i></p> <p><i>Living in the West of England and managing to find some time for game and motor sports; along with his wife, Jenny, travel (aside from Covid) is a great interest.</i></p>
	<p>Jakob R. Klaumann</p>
	<p>Director of the Danish Timber Trade Federation</p> <p><i>Jakob Rygg Klaumann is director of Danish Timber Trade Federation, since 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Jakob holds a MSc in Forestry from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Copenhagen.</i></p> <p><i>Jakob loves the working forest and all the attributes of timber. Also acting as secretary for the Danish Wood Initiative, Jakob has been working to promote the use of timber for more than 20 years.</i></p>

	<p>Morten Bergsten</p>
	<p>Softwood Chairman ETTF</p> <p><i>Morten Bergsten has been working with softwood, import/export for 36 years. For the last 13 years President CEO and owner at Bergsten Timber A/S, and Bergsten Timber international ApS. Before that, 23 years with Dalhoff Larsen & Horneman (DLH). Morten is also member of the board at ETTF (Chairman Softwood), and furthermore board member at The Danish Timber Trade Federation (DTTF)</i></p>

	<p>Herbert Jöbstl</p>
	<p>President EOS</p> <p><i>Herbert Jöbstl has been working for the wood industry for 42 years. 24 years ago he joined Stora Enso and worked in various positions for the company and since April 2018 as a Head of Operations for Stora Enso Wood Products. Earlier he was 13 years responsible for the Central European part from Stora Enso Wood Products. Since November 2020 Herbert is Chairman of the Austrian Wood Industry Association, before he was for 6 years Chairman of the Austrian Sawmilling Industry.</i></p> <p><i>During summer 2016 he became a Board Member of the European Organisation of the Sawmilling Industry (EOS). Since June 2021 he is President of EOS. Herbert is 58 years old, married, has three children and lives in Southern Austria. He likes skiing and hiking through the forests and the beautiful mountains in his home area.</i></p>

	<p>Paul Brannen</p>
	<p>Director Public Affairs, CEI-Bois and EOS</p> <p><i>Paul leads the advocacy engagement of the European woodworking and sawmill industries towards the European institutions. He is a former UK Member of the European Parliament who in the last parliament served on both the Environment Committee and the Agriculture Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Before becoming an MEP Paul worked for the development charity Christian Aid as head of advocacy working primarily on climate change. Earlier roles were with the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Labour Party and HSBC.</i></p> <p><i>Paul is a currently the David Goldman Visiting Professor of Innovation and Enterprise at Newcastle University Business School.</i></p>


	<p>Don Kayne</p>
	<p>President & CEO, Canfor Corporation</p> <p><i>Mr. Kayne was appointed President and CEO of Canfor Corporation on May 5, 2011. He is a Director of Canfor Corporation and Canfor Pulp. He is a Director and past Chair of the Forest Products Association of Canada and current Chair of the Council of Forest Industries, and Director, BC Lumber Trade Council.</i></p> <p><i>In 2014, he was appointed to the bi-national Softwood Lumber Council and is past Vice Chair of the Softwood Lumber Board and Chair of the Programs Committee, and Chair Emeritus of the Softwood Lumber Board.</i></p> <p><i>He is also a Director of Cameco Corporation and Chair of Human Resources and Compensation Committee. A Director of VIDA Corporation; Patron, BCIT INSPIRE Campaign, Director, Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI), Co-Chair of a charitable organization, Canadian Society for Educating Girls of Rural China (EGRC). EGRC empowers Chinese rural young women through education, and further provides opportunities for their personal and career development.</i></p> <p><i>He has spent his entire career at Canfor, starting out as a regional sales representative in 1979. He is motivated by what lays ahead for the forest sector as the global population and demand for sustainable, renewable products continues to increase. Prior to being appointed CEO, he spent 10 years as Canfor's Vice President of Sales and Marketing and is one of the lead architects of Asian market development for Canadian forest products.</i></p> <p><i>Don's work growing markets for Canfor's products around the world has provided him with deep connections to global markets and customers. Don has lead global diversification of Canfor internationally (Sweden and in the USA). During his 11 years as CEO European and USA volumes have increased to 70% of total shipments vs 30% 10 years ago.</i></p> <p><i>Don has also lead the growth into the value-added and home centre growth globally.</i></p>


	<p>Marc Brinkmeyer</p>
	<p>Owner and chairman, Idaho Forest Group</p> <p><i>Idaho Forest Group (IFG) is one of America's larger lumber producers. Across Idaho and Mississippi, IFG owns six sawmills and a finger-joint facility, with annual capacity for over 1.5 billion board. Brinkmeyer is a focused business leader, a student of technology and innovation, and one who believes one should give back.</i></p> <p><i>Marc grew up in a farming family that emigrated to Iowa in the late 1800's from the family farm in Germany which dates to 1477. His mother's family in addition to being farmers were sawmillers beginning in the early 1900's with steam engines.</i></p>

	<p><i>In 1981 Brinkmeyer formed Riley Creek and purchased his first sawmill in Laclede, Idaho. In 2003, Riley Creek purchased two additional mills from Louisiana-Pacific becoming the largest lumber producer in the Intermountain West. The company has continued to grow thru acquisition and investing in technology, becoming Idaho Forest Group.</i></p> <p><i>IFG is based in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where it grows, harvests, manufactures, and distributes lumber and other wood by-products to customers in the United States and abroad. The company emphasizes a talented workforce of more than 1,200 employees and 2,500 partner contractors. IFG’s mission is to “enhance the lives and livelihoods of its employees, customers, and Logging Contractor Families.</i></p> <p><i>The Idaho Facilities operate in the Intermountain Forest which is comprised of 16,800,000 acres of timberland located in Idaho, Eastern Washington, and Western Montana. In 2018, with the encouragement of its customers, the company began to study the sustainable timber base in the Southern United States. This resulted in building a new mill in Lumberton, Mississippi, where the last sawmill closed over 100 years ago.</i></p> <p><i>The first 35 to 40 years of the company embraced T3 - Talent, Technology and Timber where the major focus of investment is on talent and technology, which has evolved into – A3– Analytics, Academics and Artificial Intelligence. Opportunities are constantly emerging in technology. From Satellite Technology for our Forestry Base to Automation and Robotics for manufacturing. IFG has developed it own Engineering and Automation Teams, embracing all forms of technology.</i></p> <p><i>The opportunity in Mississippi was the appropriate next step, a new era of implementing our ideas with our team members. The company often debates “does technology bring talent, or does talent bring technology” an area where the company strives for balance, constantly studying technologies and evaluating innovation from other industries.</i></p>
--	---

	<p>John Herbert</p> <p>European DIY Retail Association</p> <p><i>John has spent more than 38 years in the Home Improvement business. He was the Managing Director at Knauber in Germany for 17 years, after which he spent some time in the USA as President of The Home Depot EXPO Design Centre West Coast USA.</i></p> <p><i>In 2002 he was appointed Managing Director of the BHB, the DIY Retail Association for Germany. John Herbert is the co-founder and General Secretary of EDRA, The European DIY Retail Association, which was founded in 2002. GHIN, the Global Home Improvement Network, was established in 2010 due to demand from companies outside of Europe to join EDRA.</i></p>
---	--

	<p><i>Today EDRA/GHIN has 219 members operating in 77 countries with over 31,000 home-improvement stores and members' sales over €340 billion. With contact to almost every home centre company globally, EDRA/GHIN has its finger on the pulse of current developments, best practices, new and successful concepts, and latest home improvement trends.</i></p> <p><i>In the past 16 years John has travelled over 440 times visiting almost all major Home Centre companies globally.</i></p> <p><i>John was most recently awarded the Global DIY Lifetime Award in Copenhagen during the 8th Global DIY-Summit – the networking event for the DIY, home improvement and garden industry.</i></p>
--	---


	<p>Mathias Fridholm Director, Swedish Wood</p> <p><i>Mathias has 25 years' experience from the sawmill industry in various sales, production and business development positions. For 12 years he lived and worked in Hong Kong to develop the Chinese and S.E. Asian markets for wood from Sweden. Since 3,5 years he is the director of Swedish Wood which is the trade association for Swedish sawmills.</i></p>
--	---

	<p>Eiji Sahara Hanwa Co., Ltd.</p> <p><i>March 1991 Joined HANWA CO.,LTD.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>April 1991- March 1994 Ferrous Raw materials div.</i> ▪ <i>April 1994 – Jan 2001 Lumber div.</i> ▪ <i>Feb 2001 – Mar 2004 Vancouver branch in Canada.</i> ▪ <i>April 2004 – Lumber div.</i> ▪ <i>April 2015 General Manager of Lumber div.</i> ▪ <i>April 2017 Corporate officer of Lumber div.</i>
---	--


	<p>Antti Koskinen Manager, AFRY Management Consulting</p> <p><i>Antti has over 20 years of experience in global wood and forest products industries. He has master's degree in both forestry and economics.</i></p> <p><i>At present Antti works in the Wood Products practice area within AFRY Management Consulting (former Pöyry). AFRY is a European leader in</i></p>
---	---

	<p><i>engineering, design, and advisory services, with a global reach and AFRY Management Consulting works globally to address challenges and opportunities in the energy, bioindustry, infrastructure, industrial and future mobility.</i></p> <p><i>Antti's work focuses on strategic analysis and business development in the wood products value chain. He has worked in projects in all continents and with all major European and Russian wood products companies. Assignments have included e.g. feasibility studies, M&A, market research, forecasting, sourcing and benchmarking.</i></p> <p><i>Antti has followed closely the growth and transformation of Russian wood products industry for the last 20 years.</i></p>
--	--

	<p>Silvia Melegari</p>
	<p>Secretary General, EOS</p> <p><i>Silvia Melegari was appointed Joint Secretary for the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and of the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) on the 14th September, 2020. Since 2015 Mrs Melegari has been working for EOS and advocating for the interest of the European mechanical wood industries.</i></p> <p><i>Having concluded her studies at the Law University in Modena with a final specialisation in political relations between States and Catholic Church, Mrs Melegari went on to obtain also an University Master's Degree in Advanced European Studies at the European College of Parma.</i></p> <p><i>Previously, Mrs Melegari worked for the European Panel Federation (EPF), where she was holding the position of Environment & Research Adviser. Overall, she has an extensive experience in the promotion of wood as environmental and sustainable material and in European affairs & correlated advocacy actions.</i></p>

	<p>Emil Engelund Thybring</p>
	<p>Ph.d, Copenhagen University</p> <p><i>Emil Engelund Thybring is Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His research centres around moisture in wood and its effect on the properties and performance, in particular on the durability of wood in wet, outdoor environments.</i></p> <p><i>In recent years, his focus has been on understanding the wood-moisture relation in wood treated by non-toxic chemical modification to improve the durability.</i></p>

	<p><i>He has an MSc in Civil Engineering (2007) from the Technical University of Denmark, and a PhD (2011) from the same university within wood materials science. He has worked as R&D consultant within on wood and biobased materials for 5 years at the Danish Technological Institute (2008-2013).</i></p> <p><i>Before joining the University of Copenhagen in 2015, he worked as postdoc for two years (2013-2015) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH Zürich) and Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science (Empa), Switzerland.</i></p> <p><i>He is member of the editorial board for the journal Wood Material Science and Engineering, and National Coordinator for Denmark in the Northern European Network on Wood Science and Engineering.</i></p>
--	---

	<p>Hélène Koch</p> <p>CEPF Policy Advisor</p> <p><i>Hélène Koch is Policy Advisor at the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) since 2020. Since 2018, Ms Koch has worked for CEF, first as Policy Officer then in her current position, with expertise in forest-related EU policy aspects regarding environmental, climate change adaptation, and rural development policies.</i></p> <p><i>Before joining CEPF Secretariat, Ms Koch completed a traineeship within the DG Environment of the European Commission. She then supported the work of forest team, mostly with regard to the issue of forest wildfires.</i></p> <p><i>Ms Koch is Belgian and holds degrees in MSc. in European Forestry and MSc. Forest Sciences from the University of Eastern Finland and the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg. These studies allowed her to gain a better understanding of European forests and their management and included dedicated study trip in Europe and hand-on training. Then, her MSc. thesis work focused on the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation in France. Prior to this, she completed in Belgium an Industrial Engineering degree in Agronomic Sciences, specializing in environment and land management.</i></p> <p><i>When Hélène is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, playing boardgames and going to the forest.</i></p>
--	---

Damian Zieliński



Polish State Forests Directorate General Policy Advisor

Damian Zielinski is a forester and has over 15 years of experience in the forestry business. Damian graduated in forestry from the WARSAW UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES and works at the Directorate General of State Forests. The State Forests in Poland is the largest organization of its kind in the EU, which conducts sustainable forest management.

His responsibilities include all aspects of sustainable forest management, but he is primarily involved in forest management planning, silviculture, forest utilisation, certification, and EU policies implementation.

As a forester in his work, Damian emphasizes that sustainable forest management (SFM) provides more than just timber, it is based on three pillars: SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL and ECONOMIC.

Damian is a member of many working groups in the State Forests, The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.