

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions  
and Water Management



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment  
Finland

## INVITATION

# 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Meeting of the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2023**  
**Ministry of the Environment of Finland,**  
**“Pankkisali”,**  
**Aleksanterinkatu 7, Helsinki, Finland**

The renewable resource wood and other wood-based materials play a vital role and can become a key enabler for the transformation towards a carbon neutral industry and climate positive society. In the context of combating climate change, a growing number of countries, regions, cities and communities in Europe, as well as in other parts of the world, aim to enhance the sustainable use of wood and other renewable materials by fostering a forest-based bioeconomy.

Several initiatives and actions with a special focus on wood and wood-based materials are taking place within the framework of the EU but also at pan-European level. However, to gain more weight and impact, multilateral exchange is vital to facilitate sharing of best practices and coordinated approaches in developing policy solutions.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> High Level Meeting (HLM)** on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 set a clear signal for wood as a future-oriented nature-based solution and formally established the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) and endorsed the woodPoP call on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe. Since then woodPoP has offered a forum for in-depth wood-based cooperation among countries to establish new pathways to foster the sustainable use of wood. Several meetings among public representatives and the various stakeholders have taken place.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> woodPoP High Level Meeting (HLM)** will provide a forum to formalize the operating structure as a basis for long-term collaboration, as well as provide updates from recent Expert and Technical Working Group meetings.

In this unique chance, we hope to welcome many delegations from Pan-European ministries led by high-level government officials, from the stakeholder organisations, research and regional and international observer organizations as well as from other observing participants. Please also join on the previous day excursion to wooden public buildings and a Get-together event.

**Registration** is open until 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

[https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Second\\_High\\_Level\\_Meeting\\_of\\_woodPoP\\_5412](https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Second_High_Level_Meeting_of_woodPoP_5412)

**For further information, please contact us:**

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# INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

## Excursion and Welcome, 3 October 2023

- 14.30 EEST      Excursion to wooden public buildings in the vicinity of Helsinki  
Departure for Excursion from the Mikonkatu Charter Bus Stop
- 15.30 EEST      Alternative pick-up at Helsinki Airport bus terminal
- 19.00 EEST      Get-together event with food and drinks upon invitation of the Ministry of Environment,  
Kansallissali, Aleksanterinkatu 44, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## High Level Meeting, 4 October 2023

Moderator: Kasmir Jolma, architect.

- 09:00 EEST      Welcome coffee and registration
- 09:30 EEST      Opening of the Meeting
- Minister Kai Mykkänen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
  - Minister Norbert Totschnig, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria
- 09:40 EEST      Setting the scene
- Global climate change and the sources and sinks of greenhouse gases;  
Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization
- 10:10 EEST      Exchange of views
- Short updates on national wood policy programmes and views on the topical focus areas of the platform from ministerial representatives
  - Views from international, regional and stakeholder organisations representatives
- 11:50 EEST      woodPoP: the way forward (Points of information)
- Endorsement of the woodPoP Guidelines
  - Reports of the Technical Working Groups co-leads
  - Announcement of the Informal steering group
  - Announcement of the High Level Meeting 2024
  - Any other business
- 12:40 EEST      Closing Remarks
- Mr. Teppo Lehtinen, Director General, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
- 12:45 EEST      Lunch at the ministry
- 14:00 EEST      Back to back meetings

## **Back to back meetings, 4 October 2023**

Subsequent to the High Level Meeting, two parallel meetings will be held at the same premises.

14:00 EEST      Informal Steering Group Meeting of the Co-Leads of the woodPoP Technical Working Groups, Meeting room 'Lohi'

14:00 EEST      Stakeholder meeting chaired by Mr Matti Mikkola, Managing Director, Federation of the Finnish Woodworking Industries, Meeting room 'Pankkisali'

More information on the afternoon sessions will follow in due course from the convening institutions. The meeting rooms have been reserved until 16.00.