



European Parliament Side Event at COP25

Closing the gap - Efforts to increase ambition in all Parties' NDCs and the role of forests in coming closer to the overall Paris target

Thursday 12 December 2019, 12:30-14.00, EU Pavilion, Helsinki Room



The Paris-Agreement was a major break-through for global climate policy. The world committed to “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels”. Unfortunately, according to the “1.5° IPCC” report, the commitments of the parties, even if they are fully implemented, will not bring us to this target. That is why an ambitious increase of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is needed. Within the NDCs, there also should be a strong focus on the role of forests and the land use sector, which store large amounts of CO₂, but are also currently an important source of emissions, especially due to tropical forest loss, which accounts for 8 percent of the world's annual CO₂ emissions. Therefore, measures must also be taken to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to encourage the widespread use of sustainable forestry practices.

Bas Eickhout, Chair of the European Parliament delegation to COP25
Welcome and introductory remarks

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, European Commission
Keynote speech

Markus Hagemann, New Climate Institute

Sanjay Vashist, South Asia Director, Climate Action Network

Cedric Thomas Frolick MP, Leader of the South African parliamentary delegation to COP25

Masako Konishi, Expert Director, Conservation and Energy, WWF Japan

Elizabeth May MP, House leader of the Green Party of Canada

Kate Dooley, University of Melbourne

Questions & Answers

Peter Liese, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament delegation to COP25
Concluding remarks