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Economy driven by natural resources

The Koli Forum is looking for new bioeconomy solutions

Koli Forum 2011 in Koli National Park 14 - 16.09.2011 "Europe 2020: Resources for smart, sustainable and Inclusive Growth - Renewable Forest and Bioenergy."

This year, the international and highly influential Koli Forum will focus in particular on the challenges of the Europe 2020 strategy, Europe's competitiveness in the light of global development, and the growing importance of the bioeconomy. The Koli forum in North Karelia will bring together European politicians, policy makers, researchers, business leaders and decision makers to consider the use of natural resources from different perspectives, and to draw up a set of proposals for action. These will be presented to the EU commission, the UN Climate Change conference and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, and for others to use.

Koli Forum 2011 is looking for solutions

The Koli Forum's enduring theme is the forest. The 2011 seminar focuses on **forest opportunities, particularly through education, innovation, sustainable bioeconomy and renewable bioenergy perspectives.**

The Koli Forum is looking for solutions. The Koli Theses and key messages drawn up at the forum will be exported to Europe and worldwide for use in on-going decision-making processes. In addition to Europe 2020 these include: The UN's annual Climate Change Conference in South Africa in 2011, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Panel and the UN Environmental Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The forum results will also be presented in late September, at the World Resources Forum in Davos.

The forum aims to gather around 100 high-level policy-makers and influential people from Europe and elsewhere in the world. The voice of today's youth will also be heard through the global International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and the ENO virtual school ACT NOW event.

Economy driven by natural resources – the growing importance of the bioeconomy

The Koli Forum 2011 taking place from 14 to 16 September will particularly explore questions related to the Europe 2020 strategy, Europe's competitiveness in the light of global development, and the growing importance of the bioeconomy.

"This year, innovations and the growing importance of the bioeconomy are key themes of the Koli Forum," says the Forum Secretary-General, University of Eastern Finland, Director of International Affairs, Professor **Liisa Tahvanainen**, PhD. The forum's objective is to seek out new scenarios and ideas for the sustainable use of resources to support European policy-making.

"The biennial forum aims to look far into the future seeking new and innovative paths for sustainable European growth," says Koli Forum Advisory Board Chairman, and President of the Finnish Supreme Administrative Court **Pekka Hallberg**.

Guests from around the world

The Koli Forum differs from other high-level international forums by bringing together a small but diverse group of highly influential decision makers in economic, scientific, political, cultural and other spheres of social influence.

Esteemed speakers have been invited from Europe and beyond. Key speakers include: IPCC Chairman, Dr. **Rajendra Pachauri**, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, **Dacian Ciolos**, the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), Managing Director **Teresa Presas**, and the European Association for Bioindustries (Europabio), Secretary General **Nathalie Moll**.

"The event is already well known around the world and has received a lot of interest this year as well," says event coordinator **Pauliina Korhonen**.

Koli, a good framework for a top Forum

Koli will now host its' second leading event for eminent European leaders from the spheres of business, science, politics and culture. The Koli National Park, located in the midst of the Finnish forests, is a good place to consider the diverse use of forests and for new forest based products to emerge.

"The peaceful and inspiring environment of Koli is the perfect place to search for and discover solutions to mankind's major challenges," says Steering Group Chairman, Executive Director, **Pentti Hyttinen**.

Partners cooperating in helping to implement the event include: The University of Eastern Finland, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, the Finnish Meteorological Institute, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the European Forest Institute and the National Centre of Expertise Programme OSKE. This year the Forum will be seeking a broader range of vision in advance from the participants through the use of a preliminary task and online interviews.

The preparations and implementation of the Koli Forum have been financed to date by the Foundation for Economic Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Regional Council of North Karelia, and the University of Eastern Finland. The University of Eastern Finland acts as General Secretariat for the Koli Forum.

What is the Koli Forum?

- The Koli Forum brings together influential European leaders from the spheres of business, politics, science and culture in order to find the best sustainable paths for development taking natural resources into consideration.
- The event provides an innovative forum, which produces new and innovative coping strategies and perspectives on the sustainable use of natural resources far into the future.
- The Koli Forum influences the decision-makers who shape our common future. It is important that decision-makers have access to reliable information and a variety of perspectives and arguments in order to make sound decisions.
- The second Koli Forum from the 14th to the 16th of September 2011 in Koli.
- For more information and newsletter subscriptions: www.koliforum.fi



11-16 September 2011

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