



Looking back and forwards

Dear Members,

As 2021 draws to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to offer some reflections on 2021 and an outlook to 2022.

The most important development from an internal point of view is Ben Gunneberg, as previously communicated, departing PEFC after a long and distinguished career as Secretary General/CEO.

We are grateful for his outstanding service and commitment to PEFC, as well as his significant accomplishments over his distinguished tenure. We thank Ben for his leadership, commitment, and persistence in taking the vision of the PEFC founders, and - over a 22-year period - creating, building, and shaping PEFC into an international organization that enjoys respect globally.

We are now in the process of recruiting a successor, and we will announce further information in due course. The headquarter team is already advancing in organising the transition period.

This past year was an important one for our common objective of promoting sustainable forest management. The climate debate, bioeconomy, disaster risk reduction, and the SDGs have placed forests in the centre of the social debate at global scale.

This provides a huge opportunity for the forest-based sector and for PEFC, if we can take advantage. We need to make PEFC fit for the important chances and opportunities emerging these days.

The next Board meeting will take place on 11 January. It will be the starting point for the implementation of the strategic review. We will also discuss how we can increase internal cohesion and cooperation through, for example, regional meetings and regular virtual sessions.

Procedures for work and budget planning next year are in place as usual.

Our goal is for PEFC International to serve you, our members, in a most efficient and effective manner as possible, with the participation of all of you.

Our ability to act as one will enable us to take advantage of the emerging opportunities, and we are looking forward to working with all of you to make PEFC stronger than ever.

Happy New Year to you all – we look forward to working with you in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Eduardo Rojas Briales

Chair

David Ford

Vice Chair

Riikka Joukio

Vice Chair