

IGLO Open: Science-Led Forest Transitions

5 May 2026 | 12:15 – 14:30

University Foundation (Room Emile Francqui)

Rue d' Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels

As climate change increasingly affects Europe's forests, the need for science-based, forward-looking approaches to forest management has never been more urgent. This IGLO Open event brings together policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to explore how research excellence can drive the transition towards a more climate-resilient forest sector. With a focus on close-to-nature management and adaptive strategies, the session will highlight the work of the Slovenian Forestry Institute, established over 80 years ago, and connect it to the broader European policy, funding initiatives, and collaborative EU projects. By bridging science, policy, and practice, the event aims to foster dialogue on how to effectively support sustainable forest transitions across Europe.

Programme

12:15 – 13:00 Registration of participants and Networking Lunch

13:00 – 13:10 Welcome and Opening remarks

- **Doc. Dr. Draško Veselinovič** – Director and Member of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)
- **Natacha Wittorski** – IGLO Chair, Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS

13:10 – 13:30 The Slovenian Forestry Institute's Work for a Climate Resilient Forest Sector

- **Dr. Nike Krajnc** – Director, Slovenian Forestry Institute

13:30 – 13:50 The EU Policy Framework for Nature Conservation

- **Ion Codescu** – Director, European Commission, DG ENV

13:50 – 14:10 From Science to Implementation: EU Instruments for Climate-Resilient Forestry

- **Gregorio Dávila Díaz** – Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG AGRI

14:10 – 14:30 Interactive Discussion and Q&A