



Seminar: Climate Change and the Fate of Forests

October 31st, 2024

SUOMALAIS-RANSKALAINEN
TEKNILLISTIEEELLINEN SEURA



ASSOCIATION FRANCO-FINLANDAISE
POUR LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE



Maatalous-, elintarvike- ja ravitsemustieteiden osaajat

About the seminar

Only in the last few decades have we become aware of the threat that man's own actions pose to us and to the world's ecosystem. Forests, the Earth's lungs, which absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, have been significantly depleted for industrial purposes. Widespread deforestation has reduced the Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, thereby contributing to the greenhouse effect and accelerating climate change, leading to rising atmospheric and ocean temperatures. In the future, we can expect to see more frequent and intense heat waves, storms, and floods.

Countries like Finland and France, which rely on income from their forests, face a dilemma: how can forest exploitation be aligned with the fight against climate change? This seminar explores whether forests can play a role in mitigating global climate change.

This event is organized in English by The Franco-Finnish Association for Technical and Scientific Research, the French Institute of Finland and the Association of Academic Agronomists. More information on the organizers down below:

- The Franco-Finnish Association for Technical and Scientific Research: www.suomi-ranska.com/teknillistieteellinen
- The French Institute of Finland: www.france.fi
- The Association of Academic Agronomists: <https://www.agronomiliitto.fi>

Timetable



*The Association of Academic Agronomists
Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu 6 A 8, 00130 Helsinki*

- 1 PM** Dr. Markku Äärimaa: Opening
Mrs. Raja Rabia, Ambassador of France in Finland: Greetings
- 1.10 PM** Dr. Robert Mavsar: The Future of European Forests in a Changing Climate
- 1.30 PM** Forest Counsellor Erno Järvinen: The Future of Finnish Forests and Forest Industry
- 1.50 PM** Mr. Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld: The Future of French Forests and Forest Industry
- 2.10 PM** Dr. Aarne Reunala: Longstanding Finnish - French Forest Research Cooperation
- 2.30 PM** Coffee break
- 2.50 PM** Professor Veli Pohjonen: The Global Perspective of Climate Change
- 3.10 PM** Panel discussion:
 - Moderator: Professor Anne-Christine Ritschkoff
 - Speakers: Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld, Erno Järvinen and Robert Mavsar.
- 4 PM** Mrs. Anne-Christine Ritschkoff: Closing of the seminar

Speakers



Anne-Christine Ritschkoff

Doctor of Biosciences, Mrs. Ritschkoff has held various roles at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland since 1987, and is currently a Senior Advisor. She advocates for sustainable solutions benefiting society and the economy while fostering strategic networks between R&D, industry, and government. She also contributes to Finnish and international science and innovation systems through various leadership roles.



Aarne Reunala

Mr. Reunala, Doctor of Forestry, worked at the Institut pour le Développement Forestier in Paris and held various roles in forestry research and education before concluding his career as Director General of Forestry at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2010. Since 1978, he has been a member, later chairman, of the Finnish Working Group for French-Finnish Forestry Cooperation.



Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld

Dr. Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld is a leading expert in Europe's forest-based and bioeconomy sectors with over 25 years of experience. As founder of Homo Silvestris Europae consulting company, he drives innovation and sustainability, helping regions and stakeholders address climate change and advance a circular bioeconomy.



Erno Järvinen

Mr. Järvinen is the head of the Forests and Bioeconomy unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. He leads a 17-person expert organization in the Natural Resources Department of the ministry, which prepares Finnish forest policy, develops legislation, provides performance guides for organizations, prepares and implements strategies and action plans, and manages international forest affairs.



Robert Mavsar

Mr. Mavsar serves as the Director of the European Forest Institute, located in Joensuu, North Karelia, Finland. In this position, he oversees the institute's overall leadership and spearheads its strategic development, guiding its mission to advance sustainable forest management and research.



Veli Pohjonen

Mr. Pohjonen graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1971 with a degree in Agriculture and Forestry. Since the 1980s, he has held various roles, including team leader, director, advisor, and project coordinator, in countries such as the USA, Australia, Indonesia, Armenia, and several African nations. In the 1990s, he spent eight years as a professor at the University of Joensuu's Faculty of Forestry. Since 2014, he has been an adjunct professor at the University of Helsinki.