

# EPAL ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

MUNICH | 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

## AGENDA

### 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. | Welcome & Opening Session

Moderator: AN Xiaowei, Bernd Dörre

#### Honoring EPAL's past, shaping EPAL's future

Speakers: Dirk Hoferer and Jarek Maciążek, Presidents of EPAL

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### 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Market Outlook: The timber market at a Turning Point

Speaker: Rob Driessen, Owner and Managing Director of Connec3 BV

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### 10.00 – 10.30 a.m. | Coffee Break & Networking

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### 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. | European Legislation: What the Industry Needs to Know Now

Moderator: AN Xiaowei

#### EUDR: What do the amended regulations of the EUDR mean for the pallet industry?

Speaker: Lukas Freise, Managing Director Working Group Raw Wood of the Main Association of the German Wood Industry (HDH)

#### PPWR: New Rules Reshaping Packaging in Europe

Speaker: Bernd Dörre, CEO of EPAL

#### Panel Discussion: Timber Industry in Transition – Resource Efficiency, Regulation and Political Pressure

Moderator: AN Xiaowei

Guests: Lukas Freise, Bernd Dörre

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### 11.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. | Coffee Break & Networking

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### 12.00 – 1.00 p.m. | Digitalisation and Automation in the Pallet Industry and Logistics

Moderator: AN Xiaowei, Bernd Dörre

#### Smarter Pallets - Smarter Supply Chains!

Speaker: Mateusz Boruta (ECR Polska)

#### Quality Reimagined: AI Inspection, Sorting Systems and New Opportunities for the EPAL Network

Speaker: Michael Brandt (EPAL)

#### Automation in Motion: What Pallet Users Expect from the Logistics of Tomorrow

Speaker: Timo Landener (Das Gleiche in Grün?!)

#### Panel Discussion: Standards, Expectations and the Future of the Pool

Moderator: AN Xiaowei, Bernd Dörre

Guests: Timo Landener, Mateusz Boruta, Michael Brandt

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1.00 – 2.00 p.m. | Lunch Break

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2.00 – 3.00 p.m. | EPAL – Past, Present and Future

Moderator: AN Xiaowei, Bernd Dörre

**35 Years of EPAL: What Brings Us Together**

Speaker: The EPAL team

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3.00 – 3.30 p.m. | Coffee Break & Networking

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3.30 – 4.30 p.m. | Keynote

**Keynote: Working with AI – From the Origins of Work to the Workplace of 2050**

Speaker: Daniel Cronin “The Pitch Professor”

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4.30 – 5.00 p.m. | Closing

Moderator: AN Xiaowei , Bernd Dörre

**Closing Remarks and Official Close of the Conference**

Speaker: Robert Holliger, Honorary president of EPAL

Dirk Hoferer and Jarek Maciążek, Presidents of EPAL

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5.00 – 7.30 p.m. | Networking Break

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7.30 p.m. – 12.00 midnight | Anniversary Celebration