

Final event - Strategic Section

28th April 2026 | Brussels, Belgium

Tuesday 28th of April 2026		
Date	Description	Convener
13:30-14:00	Registration for afternoon session	CETAF GS
14:00 - 15:30	First panel: Taxonomy meets One Health	Dimitris Koureas (Director DiSSCo RI)
14:00-14:30	Key note speech	Ilaria Capua (Johns Hopkins SAIS)
14:30-15:30	Panel discussion on the intersections between taxonomy, health security, and environmental monitoring, exploring opportunities, challenges, and future cooperation.	Eleonora De Falcis (<i>The Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT</i>) Christos Arvanitidis (<i>Lifewatch ERIC</i>) Hein Imbrechts (<i>Sciensano</i>) Tine Huyse (UoL) Ariane Vander Stappen (<i>HoU, DG Sante AI</i>)
15:30 - 17:00	Second panel: Sustainable growth	Edwin van Huis (CETAF President)
15:30-16:00	Key note speech	Lars Dinesen (IPBES DK)
16:00-17:00	Dialogue tackling connections between biodiversity and the private sector (including finance), exploring opportunities, challenges, and future cooperation through European taxonomic facilities and related actors.	Faiza Ouhlasen (KPMG) Wijnand Broer (PBAF) Evelyn Underwood (IEEP) Emma Woods (NHM) Maria Lusía Tamborra (DG ENV)
17:00 - 17:10	End of Day	AC (CETAF) / FH(RBINS)
Approx. 18h	Reception	

First Panel: Taxonomy meets One Health

Aims:

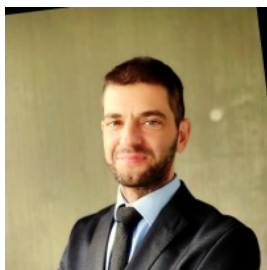
This panel will examine how Taxonomy contributes to the One Health approach — a holistic framework that links the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems. Participants will explore how healthy and diverse ecosystems play a key role in disease prevention, food system stability, and overall environmental resilience. The discussion will highlight the value of taxonomy as a foundation for sustainable public health strategies and integrated risk management across sectors. It will also address components of the value chain, such as synergies and partnerships, barriers that need to be overcome, mainly in terms of expertise and data, and impact to be created also based on taxonomic contributions.

Expected Outcome:

Together with the Keynote speaker, and the contributions from panellists, the Moderator and the TETTRIs Coordinator will produce a document that will gather main discussion topics and will elaborate on the considerations discussed to identify a set of recommendations and guiding actions with a double-fold objective:

- Circulate a statement to the community for action, and
- Setting a baseline for the TETTRIX project, in those tasks where the topic is addressed.

Moderator



Dr. **Dimitris Koureas** is the Executive Director of the Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo) European Research Infrastructure and Managing Director for Digital and Chief Information Officer at Naturalis Biodiversity Center in the Netherlands. He specialises in digital innovation for research infrastructures and has extensive experience in biodiversity informatics and international data initiatives. Dr. Koureas has held leadership roles in numerous European projects and currently co-chairs the FAIR Digital Object Forum, contributing to the development of global standards for research data.

Key Note Speech

Professor **Ilaria Capua**, DVM, PhD, is a renowned virologist and global leader in One Health and Circular Health. She is Senior Fellow of Global Health at Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe and Courtesy Professor and Emeritus Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida.

Professor Capua is internationally recognised for her pioneering work on emerging and zoonotic viruses, particularly avian influenza, including the development of the DIVA vaccination strategy, as well as for her leadership in promoting open access to viral genetic data—an approach that has transformed global pandemic preparedness.



Her career spans research, policy, and public engagement, including collaborations with leading international organisations such as the World Health Organization and service as a member of the Italian Parliament (2013–2016), where she worked on infectious disease and public health policy. She is also a columnist for *Corriere della Sera* and an advocate for interdisciplinary approaches to health through the Circular Health framework.

Panellists



Ariane Vander Stappen is Head of Unit for One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). In this role, she leads EU initiatives that integrate human, animal, and environmental health, shaping policies on antimicrobial resistance, zoonoses, and broader One Health strategies. With a background in bio-engineering and extensive experience in EU health, food safety, and veterinary policy, she has been instrumental in developing legislative frameworks, coordinating multi-stakeholder projects, and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration to address complex public health and environmental challenges.

Christos Arvanitidis is a marine biodiversity and informatics expert, serving as Chief Executive Officer of the LifeWatch ERIC, the European research infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem research, as well as Research Director at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. His work focuses on advancing open science, digital infrastructure, and the integration of biodiversity data to support research, policy, and innovation. With over 100 peer-reviewed publications and leadership in numerous international projects, he is recognised for his contributions to biodiversity informatics, functional diversity, and ecosystem research.



Eleonora De Falcis is an agricultural economist in the research program Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture at the Alliance of Bioersity International and CIAT, where she has worked since 2019. Her work focuses on the economic sustainability of on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation, with particular attention to market dynamics and value chain opportunities at local, national, and international levels. She has contributed to multi-country projects across Africa, Latin America, and Asia, supporting biodiversity-based production systems, particularly those centered on neglected and underutilized species (NUS), as well as community seed systems to enhance the resilience and sustainability of food systems. Her work combines economic analysis, field-based evidence, and policy insights to inform decision-makers and development partners. Prior to joining the Alliance, Eleonora worked in academia, the private sector, and international organizations, focusing on trade, including at the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre. She brings over ten years of professional experience in sustainable agri-food systems, spanning both technical and project management roles.

Dr. **Tine Huyse** is a parasitologist and senior molecular biologist at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium), where she researches host–parasite relationships, invasive species, zoonoses, and One Health approaches to disease dynamics. With a background in biology and a PhD from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, she has worked internationally, including as a Marie Curie Fellow at the Natural History Museum in London and as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and KU Leuven. Her work combines field research, molecular epidemiology, and citizen science to understand the transmission and emergence of neglected tropical diseases.



Hein Imberechts holds a degree of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Ghent and obtained a PhD in 1992 from the Free University of Brussels in Belgium. From 2001 to 2015 he served as Head of Department at Sciensano, the Belgian reference laboratory for infectious diseases in humans and animals, reinforcing Sciensano’s role as a genuine One Health institute. Between 2018 and 2023, he was the scientific coordinator of the One Health European Joint Programme together with ANSES in France. Since 2018, he is Vice-President of the European One Health Association.

Second Panel: Taxonomy meets Sustainable Growth

AIMS:

The Panel will explore the financial interests and opportunities that biodiversity presents. It aims to address possible pathways to embed biodiversity as to become an asset and a critical component of the value proposition for the private actors, including industry, finances, insurances and others. Different perspectives will explore which business cases, investment models or market mechanisms exist, or could be developed, where specifically taxonomic data adds measurable value (e.g. ecosystem services, natural capital, green finance). In particular, it will investigate how taxonomy may better contribute to supporting this multi-actor dialogue and make solutions for the private sector more scientific-based, robust and sustained.

EXPECTED Outcomes:

Together with the Keynote speaker, and the contributions from panellists, the Moderator and the TETTRIs Coordinator will produce a document that will gather main discussion topics and will elaborate on the considerations discussed to identify a set of recommendations and guiding actions with a double-fold objective:

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Moderator



Edwin van Huis is President of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), the European network of natural history museums, botanical gardens, and biodiversity research institutions. He previously served as General Director of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden until his retirement in 2025, where he strengthened the institute's research profile and international collaborations. With a background in biology and business administration, he continues to advance taxonomy, biodiversity research, and strategic cooperation across European collections.

Key Note Speech

Lars Dinesen is Coordinator of IPBES Denmark, the national office of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where he works to connect science and policy and support national engagement with global biodiversity assessments. He also plays an active role within Biodiversa+, the European biodiversity research partnership, contributing to activities that bridge research, innovation, and policy. With a master's degree in biology and extensive experience in international environmental policy and biodiversity research, he works to advance evidence-based biodiversity action.



Panellists



Marialuisa Tamborra is a senior expert in biodiversity and ecosystem assessment at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV). Since June 2025, she has been part of the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health Unit, where she works to strengthen the knowledge base for biodiversity monitoring and assessment and leads efforts to develop high-integrity Nature Credits.

Previously, she led the Natural Capital Accounting and Ecosystem Assessment team at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy (2022–2025), where she oversaw the development of

methodologies, indicators, and tools supporting biodiversity conservation and restoration policies in the EU and beyond. Before that, she worked in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I), where she was responsible for multilateral cooperation and contributed to G7 and G20 research and innovation processes.

Earlier in her career, she served as Deputy Head of the Strategy Unit in DG R&I's Climate Action and Resource Efficiency Directorate, working on sustainability priorities including the low-carbon economy, circular economy, nature-based solutions, and sustainable cities, with a focus on international cooperation initiatives supporting the European Green Deal. She began her career as a researcher in environmental accounting and sustainable development indicators at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei in Milan and joined the European Commission in 2002.

Wijnand Broer studied Economics, Marketing and Horticulture at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and is a partner at the Dutch Sustainability consultancy CREM. He has been working with CREM since 1993 and specialises in the areas of Business & Biodiversity, Sustainable Finance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in international supply chains.



Wijnand is Programme Manager at the Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Financials (PBAF), a partnership of over 70 financial institutions from 20 countries. PBAF offers guidance on biodiversity impact assessment and the assessment of dependencies on ecosystem services in the financial sector, and contributes to harmonisation and standardisation of biodiversity footprinting and dependency assessment through the PBAF Standard. Wijnand contributes to various international finance & nature related projects and initiatives, is a contributing author to the IPBES 'Approaches for measurement of business dependencies and impacts on biodiversity' and was a Technical Committee member of the GRI Topic Standard for Biodiversity.

Faiza Oulahsen is Director of Sustainability Advisory at KPMG Netherlands, where she helps public and private sector organisations transition toward low-carbon, resilient, and nature-positive economies. With over 17 years of experience in climate and sustainability, her work spans energy transition, ESG strategy, climate and nature engagement, and strengthening sustainability reporting — including helping companies understand and act on their biodiversity impacts and dependencies. Before joining KPMG, she spent 13 years at Greenpeace Netherlands, leading high-profile climate and energy campaigns that translated societal urgency into strategic action.



Emma Woods is Director of Policy and Partnerships at the Natural History Museum, where she leads the Museum’s policy engagement to bring scientific evidence on biodiversity and the planetary emergency into decision-making at national and international levels. As the Museum’s first Director of Policy, she established and now heads the policy unit, working with scientists, policymakers and partners to influence nature-positive policy, including contributions to global biodiversity discussions such as 30by30 and climate-nature integration at COP events.



Evelyn Underwood is the biodiversity and ecosystems policy lead at the Institute for European Environmental Policy, a Brussels-based think tank specialised in environmental policy and sustainability. She has worked for many years on mainstreaming nature protection and restoration into EU policy and funding, notably in the implementation of the EU nature directives and the Natura 2000 network, the pollinator initiative and the Common Agricultural Policy. With a background in environmental biology, she is passionate about nature conservation

and restoration.