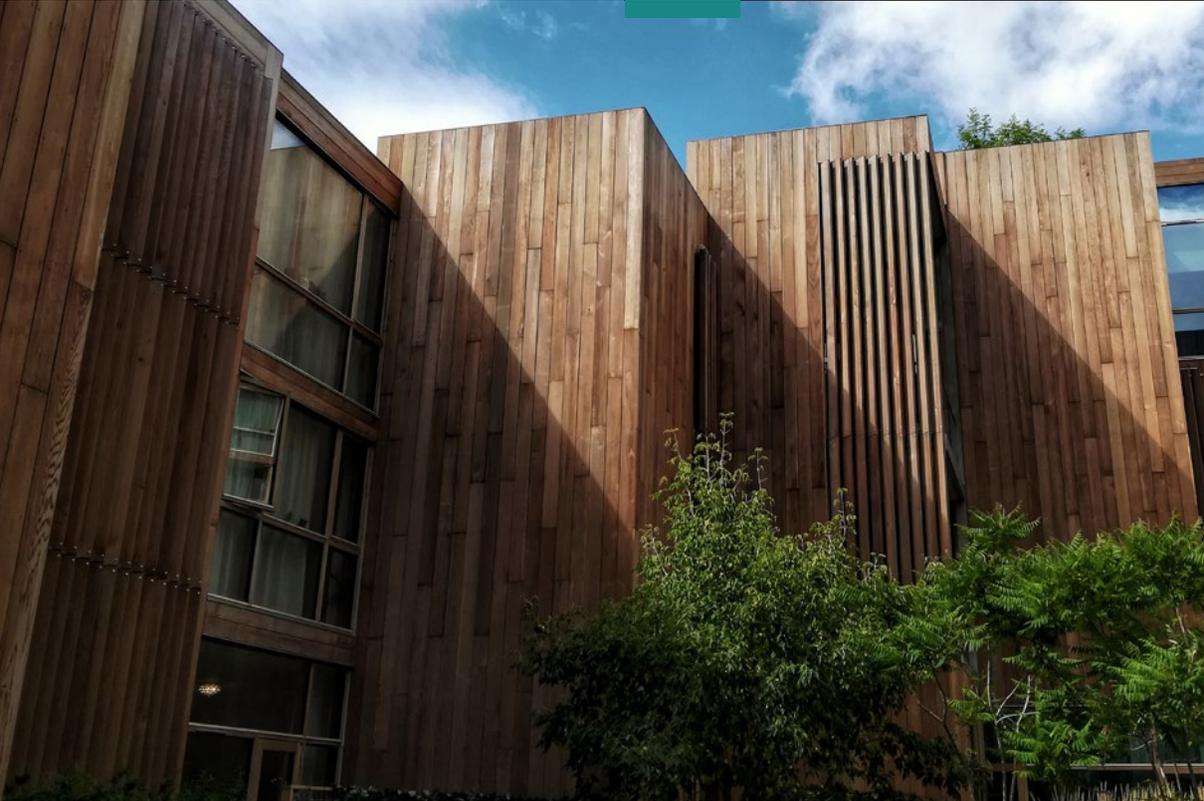




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ADVOCACY REPORT

2020 / 2021

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CHAPTER

1



FOREWORD:

Throughout the year CEI-Bois' advocacy activity has been guided by a recognition that long life harvested wood products can play a significant role in helping to decarbonise the built environment which is responsible for some 40% of global carbon emissions.

This recognition led us to take a lead at both a European and global level in drawing up a timber manifesto for use at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021. Under the title 'Growing our low-carbon future: Time for timber' we set out our case that wood is the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable a substantial decarbonisation of the built environment based on existing business models and proven technology providing vast carbon sinks in our rural areas (our forests) and carbon sinks in our cities (wood in construction and renovation). The manifesto was endorsed by many of our European colleagues as well as sister bodies in the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Our coalition working also included CEI-Bois taking a central role in establishing the new Wood4Bauhaus Alliance, a pan-European alliance working to promote a central role for wood in the New



European Bauhaus Initiative which has been instigated by the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. We believe the Bauhaus' focus on sustainability, affordability and beauty within the built environment work to the advantage of nature-based materials especially wood, hence our engagement with this initiative including taking a leading role in organising a major online conference in April 2021 'The New European Bauhaus:

How Can The Wood Sector Engage, Contribute And Co-create?. The Alliance has made two significant policy proposal submissions to the Commission, 'Research Needs and Priorities Supporting Sustainable Construction With Organic Materials Under The European Green Deal' and 'Policy Recommendations To Encourage Nature-Based Materials Like Wood In Construction And Renovation Of The Built Environment'.

As the year progressed, we began to register increasing opportunities for wood products within the EU's proposed Renovation Wave over and above those that exist for wood within new build. The two markets combined offer significant opportunities for the European woodworking industries which in turn translates into a major opportunity to increase the amount of carbon stored in the European built environment from the current estimate of 1.8Gt of CO₂ equivalent which is already stored in the wood that is in the EU built environment. This is equivalent to more than half the above ground CO₂ equivalent stored in the Swedish forest. To push home this message with MEPs we organised, along with the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Panel Federation (EPF), a meeting of the Club du Bois specifically on the potential contribution that the wood sector could make to the Renovation Wave – the EU's plan to renovate 190 million buildings by 2050 as part of achieving the continent's net zero target.

The recently revised European Forest Strategy from the Commission has elicited further cross organisational work

including with colleagues working directly in the forest sector. From CEI-Bois' perspective the Strategy's emphasis on the increased use of wood in construction is most welcome – something we have been keen to convey to the Commission. However, we share the concerns of our colleagues in the forestry sector that there is an element of 'overreach' in the Commission's proposals for EU forestry.

A specific issue in the second half of the year has been the emergence of both direct and indirect negative consequence emanating from a proposed Russian ban on the export of logs beginning in January 2022. CEI-Bois and EOS took the lead in raising concerns and secured a meeting with the Trade Commissioner's team on the matter and with staff from DG Trade. Politicians have also been approached to stress our concerns that if China loses its Russian log supply, then it will almost certainly come to Europe and outbid our wood processing companies on price, threatening the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Europeans. In addition, we have made the point that we do not think it is an exaggeration to state that the uncontrolled export of logs from Europe will ultimately result in Europe being short of the sustainable wood it needs for use in the built environment to meet its 2050 net zero climate goal.

Looking forward... we see significant potential to increase the amount of wood used in both new build and renovation. Currently 0.5Gt of CO₂ equivalent is taken out of the European forests each year in the form of sustainable timber, of which we believe approximately 15% ends up in LLHWPs. CEI-Bois thinks we should be

aiming to at least double this figure by 2050 so that wood can play its full role in tackling climate breakdown by making a significant contribution to decarbonising the built environment. To help achieve this we will play a full and active role in the revision of the LULUCF (including creating a carbon credit mechanism for Harvested Wood Products), the debate around the EU Forest Strategy, the New European Bauhaus Initiative, and the Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Cross-sectoral lobby groups, are the most powerful lobby actors in terms of political impact and access to the highest-ranking decision makers, this is why, in the last year CEI-Bois not only encouraged the participation of its Members in its different Working Groups, but has dramatically enhanced its collaboration with important organisations such as EUSTAFOR (European State Forest Association), CEPF (Confederation of European Forest Owners), CEPI (European association representing the paper industry) and EPF -to mentioned just a few. The interconnected and complex nature of lobbying in Brussels, demands that we find compromises amongst our value chain in order to develop strong and coherent policy messages and direct those messages to the policy makers.

To conclude, I would like to express gratitude to all CEI-Bois Members and the CEI-Bois team for their passion and dedication in our daily activities. Together we have brought clear and tangible improvements in the organisation's operations and visibility in Brussels and Europe more widely.

We have a many great opportunities but also challenges ahead of us as an industry. Nevertheless, I am confident that together with our members we will be able to translate challenges in opportunities and economic growth.



Sampsa AUVINEN
Chairman of CEI-Bois

CHAPTER

2

WHO WE ARE.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Founded in 1952, CEI-Bois is the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries; it is a non-profit-making Organisation, legally registered as an AISBL under the Belgian law.

The Confederation is based in Brussels and numbers 16 National Organisations, 4 European Sector Federations as well as 1 commercial public establishment.

The primary goal of CEI-Bois is to promote the interests of the European wood sector and to this end to contribute to the EU policy-making process. It is the main body representing the European Woodworking Industries at European and International level.

CEI-Bois mission is to:

- promote the Sector and the use of wood in its numerous forms and applications
- represent and safeguard the European Woodworking Industries interests
- highlight the natural sustainability of wood and wood-based products

The day-to-day management of CEI-Bois is performed by the secretariat in Brussels, supported by 5 working groups dealing with Sustainability, Social Affairs, Construction, Innovation and Trade issues. Additional ad hoc task forces are established when needed; currently there are three Task Forces on the topics of Life-Cycle Assessment, Fire and Deforestation.

INSIDE OUR WORKING GROUPS

1. **CEI-Bois' Construction Working Group**

Timber products and a large variety of wood-based materials are increasingly being used in carbon and energy efficient construction. The overall aim of

the working group is to strengthen this position in European policies, regulatory affairs, standardization and Research & Innovation. The working group works on developing initiatives in accordance with the following guiding objectives.

Building with wood:

- Advocacy of the use of wood in construction and renovation, including prefabricated houses
- Advocacy of the environmental and energy efficiency performance of wood in a life cycle approach framework
- Active support for innovative wood-based materials and building concepts

Indoor air quality:

- Wood-based products as an attractive choice for indoor use
- Avoidance of restrictive emission limits for wood-based construction materials

Technical basis of wood construction:

- State of the art technical research & standardization work in support of timber structure design, sustainability of wood in construction works and the indoor air performance of wood-based materials
- The strategic Task Force Construction Research & Standardization creates a vision and collective understanding regarding long term research and standardization for timber construction/ building with wood. The Task Force

functions as Eurocode 5 coordination group that encourages and facilitates participation of wood industry experts in structural timber design standardization.

JOIN THE EUROPEAN CLT HUB!

The European CLT Hub was initiated at a meeting on April 1st 2019 in Vienna and unanimously supported in order to streamline the information and cooperate as well as interact on European level.

In 2020 the hub was started by a group of company experts to define the common approach and the issues that should/could be tackled. In July 2021, it was decided and requested to open up the Hub to further interested companies and associations in order to broaden it. Interested companies and associations are requested to contact us.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The European timber industry is starting its digitization initiative!

The initiative “TIMBIM” within the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, CEI-Bois has launched a pilot project for a joint digital platform for information on construction products in wood.

Within the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, CEI-Bois, some member states are intensively dealing with the topic of digitization and developed together a common understanding of the topic in recent years. At the end of 2020, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed. The joint initiative “TIMBIM” supports the continuous knowledge-sharing and collaboration between participating member states. As a result, the CEI-Bois Initiative is now starting its first pilot project for a European digital platform for information on construction products in wood. The first partners to take part in the project are the CEI-Bois members Switzerland (Lignum), Austria (Association of the Austrian Wood Industries), Finland (Federation of the Finnish Woodworking Industries) and Sweden (Swedish wood).

Project details

Together with the Norwegian software company Cobuilder, the participating member states will develop a common data structure with specific dictionary and data templates for the selected construction products in wood. The basis for these data templates are the names and properties described by the European product- and test standards that are harmonised and applied across all the European countries. The members of the pilot project will select and provide information needed to create data templates for the selected categories of construction products in wood.

Within these created structures, both, generic and specific information can exist side by side using the common data models created through a common technical language.

This common data management platform will enable clear, credible and standard-based communication within the BIM methodology. The information provided will be used across all stages of the planning: While in early project stages the wood solution is represented based on generic information, the information is increasingly replaced by specific product information in later stages of the project.

Expected benefit of the project

Through the coordinated approach with other national associations, the partners target not only cost savings for the wood industry, but also a faster implementation of workflows to optimise the building in all basic requirements for buildings over the whole lifecycle. In the common platform, properties of construction products in wood are described in a common structure. As this information is machine-readable, it is ready to get processed by the algorithms of applications within the BIM methodology.

This will allow architects and planners to design sustainable buildings in wood better, faster and safer by selecting the right solution in wood to meet the project requirements and building regulations. The “good arguments for wood” are finally made visible in the investors decision-making process.

Next steps:

In the future, the common platform will have both a web-based view and an Application Programming Interface (API) with which the information can be used by different actors.

Within the web-based view, the information can be easily translated into the respective language and supplement other national information. The information can be accessed and presented in different user environments and national contexts like product catalogues, dimensioning tools and configurators.

2. CEI-Bois Sustainability Working Group

The main aim of the Sustainability WG is to promote the inherent advantages of using wood. Wood is renewable, sustainable and can be used, re-used and re-cycled. It is a model product for Europe's transition towards a Circular Economy intended to boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs.

The woodworking industries are committed to source wood from sustainable managed forests and comply with the EU Timber Regulation. They are also tackling climate change by storing carbon in Harvested Wood Products and substituting other materials. Not only is the production and processing of wood highly energy-efficient giving wood products an ultra-low carbon footprint but wood can often be used to substitute materials which require large amounts of energy to be produced and suffer higher carbon intensity.

For the monitoring of the LCA/standardization-related issues, a task force within the WG is in place. The TF provides the proper orientations to ensure the wood-working industries are duly represented within the competent standardization committees. In November 2020, a Task force has been created to work on all issues related to deforestation, illegal logging and traceability of wood flows. The Sustainability WG is involved in crucial dossiers among which the new EU Forest Strategy, the LULUCF Regulation on emissions and removals from the land sector, the sustainability of bio-energy, the Circular Economy Package and the Resource Efficiency issue.

3. CEI-Bois Social Affairs Working Group

Within all companies, maintaining and improving the quality of the relations between employers and workers is a sine qua non condition to guarantee the company growth; both actors target the

common objective of a sound company development.

More largely but similarly, at European level, the Social Dialogue represents the way to improve the European governance through the involvement of the social partners in decision-making and in the implementation process.

The EU Wood Sector Social Dialogue brings together the Wood Industry workers and employers from the EU member States, respectively represented by the European Federation of Building & Woodworkers (EFBWW) and CEI-Bois.

Recently, the Sector Trade Unions, The European Furniture Industries Confederation (EFIC) and CEI-Bois decided to organize common meetings under a Joint Sector Social Dialogue framework for debating common issues and addressing the EU Institutions common messages.

According to the above, the CEI-Bois Social Affairs WG aims to:

- Identify common areas of cooperation with the Trade Unions
- Promote and manage investigation and communication projects
- Contribute to the definition of the European Sector Social Dialogue Agenda
- Social Affairs WG is redoubling its efforts, to monitor relevant industrial relations-related issues and to focus on concrete initiatives to improve the Woodworking sector image in the eyes of the young generations.

4. CEI-Bois Trade Working Group

The main aim of the Trade WG is to ensure a level-playing field for the Woodworking Industries both for their wood raw material procurement and their sales

of semi-finished and finished wood-based products. This means promoting the “*FREE AND FAIR*” Trade principle. Furthermore, both on the internal and the external EU market, the WG intends to maintain and improve standards while lowering operating costs and increasing efficiency.

Besides addressing any emerging trade issue, including Non-Tariff Barriers, this WG also tries to define a long-term trade strategy for CEI-Bois.

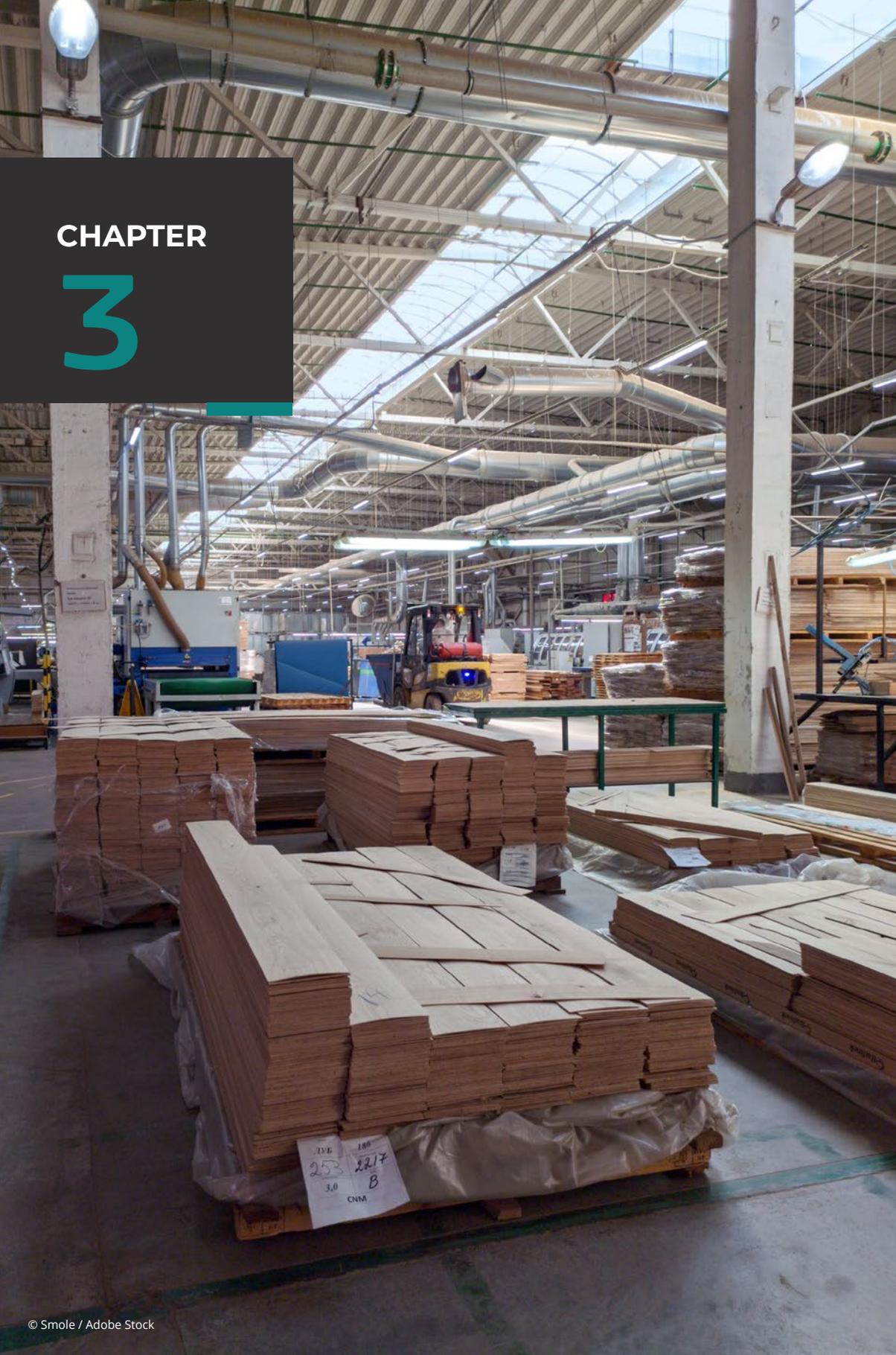
5. CEI-Bois Research, Development and Innovation Working Group

The working group contributes to strengthening the wood industry's position in public funding programs for innovation research at European, transnational and national/regional level. It aims at defining the strategic research questions for the wood industry as an entire part of the forest-based bioeconomy and collect proposals to make them tangible. Connection with all relevant partner organisations and with the Forest-based Technology Platform (FTP) is essential.

The working group is internally linked to the Task Force on Construction Research & Standardization (Construction WG). The CEI-Bois members and network are engaged and integrated into the activities of the RD&I WG. The working group is communicating clearly about research for innovation and interacting with the competent EC interlocutors.

CHAPTER

3



THE EUROPEAN WOODWORKING INDUSTRY

Source: Eurostat, December 2020

The EU's wood-based industries cover a range of downstream activities, including woodworking industries, large parts of the furniture industry, pulp and paper manufacturing and converting industries, and the printing industry. Together, some 397 000 enterprises were active in wood-based industries across the EU-27 in 2018; they represented one in five (19.6 %) manufacturing enterprises across the EU-27, highlighting that - with the exception of

pulp and paper manufacturing that is characterized by economies of scale - many wood-based industries had a relatively high number of small or medium-sized enterprises. The economic importance of an industry can be measured by the share of its gross value added (GVA) in the economy. In 2018, the GVA of wood-based industries in the EU-27 was EUR 139 billion or 7.1 % of the total manufacturing industry. The distribution of GVA across each of the four wood-based activities in 2018 is presented in the table below.

Main economic indicators for wood-based industries, EU-27, 2018

Activity (NACE Rev. 2)	Number of enterprises (1 000)	Gross value added at factor cost (billion EUR)	Number of persons employed (1 000)
	2018	2018	2018
Manufacturing (NACE C)	2 025	1 945	29 893
Wood-based industries (NACE C 16+17+18.1+31)	397	139	3 093
Manufacture of wood and wood products (16)	160 du	35 du	922
Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper products (17)	18	48	628
Printing and service activities related to printing (18.1)	99	25	593
Manufacture of furniture (31)	120 du	31 de	950 de

'd': definition differs, see metadata.

'e': estimated

'p': provisional

'u': low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_na_ind_r2)

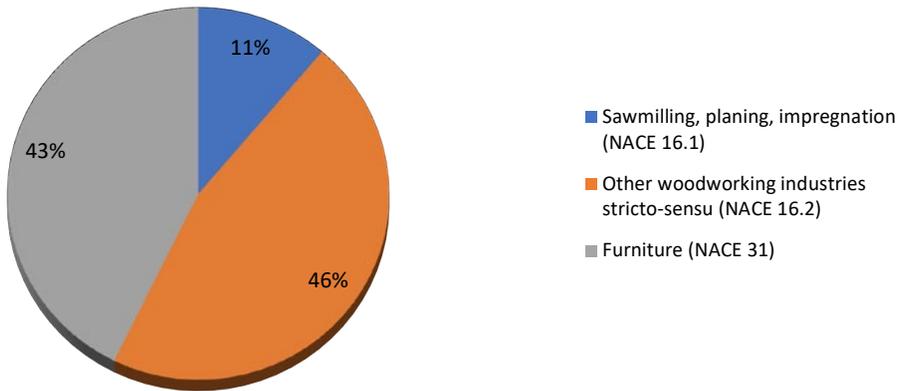
Within the EU-27's wood-based industries, the largest GVA was recorded for pulp, paper and paper products manufacturing (35 % or EUR 48 billion). With regard to the other three sectors, printing and service activities related to printing amounted to 18 % of the GVA of wood based industries, while the manufacture of furniture and manufacturing of wood and wood products each made up between 22 % and 25 %.

companies in 2018, this number remains stable compared to 2017 (300,567 companies). Among these 301,337 companies, almost 129,000 were active in the furniture business (NACE 31) while the sawmill industry (NACE 16.1) and the other sub-sectors of woodworking products (NACE 16.2) accounted for roughly 33,715 and 138,861 companies respectively. These figures remain underestimations since small companies are not necessarily taken into account given the Member States' reporting. In the furniture and the construction elements sectors, the number of small companies is considerable and therefore, the real number of firms could be estimated at more than 350,000 companies.

1. Number of Enterprises

According to Eurostat, the woodworking industries counted around 301,337

Figure 20: Number of enterprises 2018 - Breakdown per NACE sub-sector



Source: Eurostat

2. Employment:

Employment in the forestry and wood products manufacturing sector (also including furniture) reached 1.46 million persons across the EU27 in 2019 (i.e. 0.76% of the total number of people employed across the EU),¹¹ with almost two-thirds being employed by the wood and wood products manufacturing sector (0.974 million), compared to one-third (0.493 million) in the forestry sector. (Eurostat, 2021).

The wood-based industries employed 3.1 million persons across the EU-27 in 2018 or 10.3 % of the manufacturing total.

There were more than 900 000 persons employed within both the manufacture of wood and wood products and the manufacture of furniture.



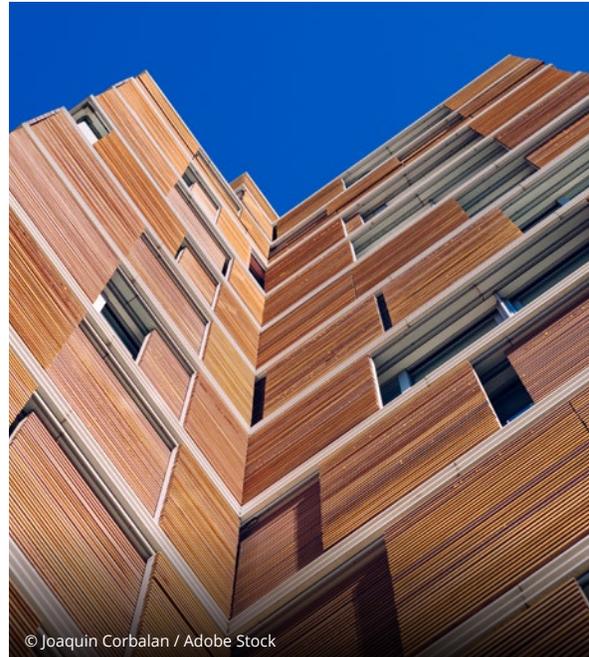
Through their value chains, the forest-based industries extend upstream into an increasing EU forest resource and downstream

into an array of industrial and consumer applications for their products meaning that wood, as a natural, renewable, re-usable and recyclable material, is having enormous potential to contribute positively to a low-carbon economy, such as to provide a high standard of living from lower levels of energy input and resource consumption ^(Eurostat 2017).

What you need to know:

Boosting wood-based construction in the EU is one of the most effective way to increase EU production and employment in green jobs such as logging and solid wood-products manufacturing, but also in sectors using sawmilling by-products as feedstock. Vertical integration in wood-based biorefineries should thus be advantageous. Moreover, BUILDING WITH WOOD IS GOOD FOR THE CLIMATE & ENVIROMENT.

Wood-based industries are an important part of the European Union manufacturing sector and their growth can help in achieving EU's industrial policy goal of raising manufacturing's gross domestic product.



3. Ally for the climate!

The European Woodworking Industries play a fundamental role in the transition to a sustainable, green, and carbon-neutral Europe.

As an early supporter of the EU Green Deal objectives, the Woodworking Industries stress the importance of upholding climate ambitions in synergy with the efforts sustained by the EU, Member States and companies alike to recover from the economic and social blow inflicted by the still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

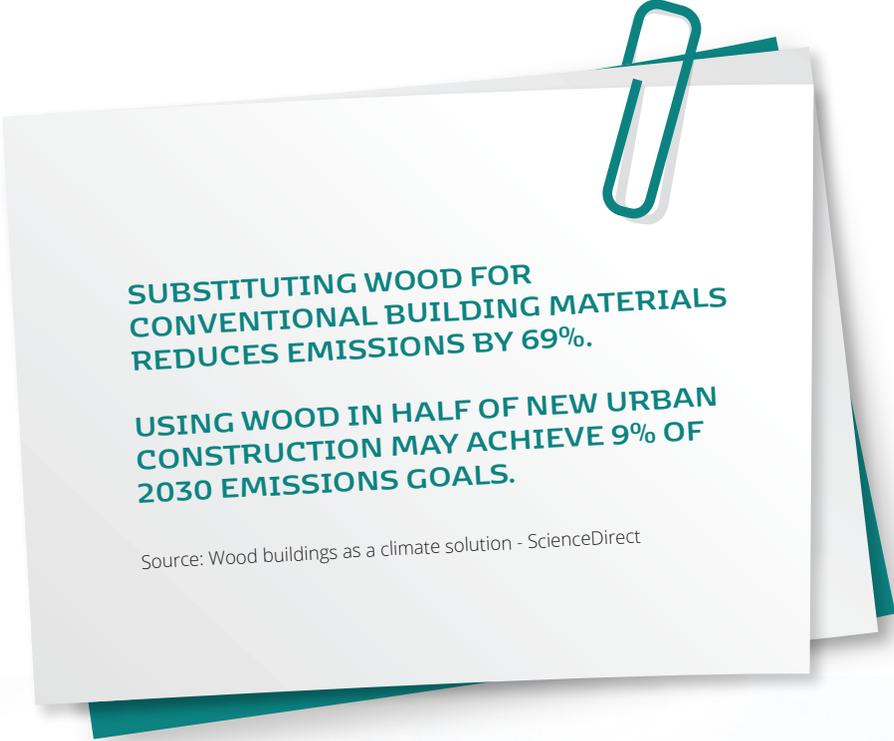
In that context, investing in the decarbonisation of the building sector through renovation and sustainable new con-

struction gains strategic importance. “We know that the construction sector can even be turned from a carbon source into a carbon sink if organic building materi-



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**SUBSTITUTING WOOD FOR
CONVENTIONAL BUILDING MATERIALS
REDUCES EMISSIONS BY 69%.**

**USING WOOD IN HALF OF NEW URBAN
CONSTRUCTION MAY ACHIEVE 9% OF
2030 EMISSIONS GOALS.**

Source: Wood buildings as a climate solution - ScienceDirect

als like wood and smart technologies as Artificial Intelligence are being used”, said President Von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union address to the Parliament.

Integrating green materials, such as wood products, into building projects can help reducing the environmental impacts associated with the construction sector.



CHAPTER

4



2020-2021: OVERVIEW OF THE CEI-BOIS MAIN ADVOCACY ACTIONS

4.1 The Fit for 55 package

The European Green Deal, presented already in December 2019, sets out a detailed vision to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, safeguard biodiversity, establish a circular economy and eliminate pollution, while boosting the competitiveness of European industry and ensuring a just transition for the regions and workers affected. In her 17 September 2020 State of the Union address, von den Leyen proposed the reduction target to be set at 55 %, alongside a revision of the EU's climate and energy legislation. Therefore, the Commission adopted the communication 'Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition - Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people' (commonly known as the 2030 EU Climate target plan), on the same day. It includes an updated 2030 emissions reduction target of net 55 % compared to 1990 levels, from the current 40 % emissions reduction target.

To implement the increased ambition, on 14 July 2021 the Commission presented the first series of adopted files under the 'Fit for 55' package. The package contains legislative proposals to revise the entire EU 2030 climate and energy framework,

including the legislation on effort sharing, land use and forestry, renewable energy, energy efficiency, emission standards for new cars and vans, and the Energy Taxation Directive.



Amongst the new initiatives adopted by the Commission and communicated on 14 July 2021 of particular relevance for the wood working industries is the Revision of the Regulation on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) due to the direct implications on wood supply in the years to come.

While CEI-Bois responded to the open public consultation launched by the EU Commission last February 2021, in September 2021 CEI-Bois organised a workshop to better understand the changes proposed in the Revision of the LULUCF Regulation.

In its response to the public consultation, CEI-Bois stressed that regardless of the option (*policy approach to revise the LULUCF Regulation in view of the increased 2030 climate ambition*), the impact on harvest levels and the raw materials availability for the bioeconomy should be carefully assessed. In general, caution should be used in considering forest sinks as a way to offset emissions from other sectors, since ageing forests are vulnerable to climate change themselves, and active forest management is needed to prevent the ever-increasing damages caused by fires, storms, pests and other disturbances. Additionally, the carbon certification system should not indirectly increase the costs of raw material, but rather increase availability of materials for long term use and promote turnover of climate robust species. If an increase in biodiversity promoting management such as continuous cover forestry is to be promoted then subsidies are needed to make them competitive in price.

4.2 CEI-Bois Expert Meeting on LULUCF with Simon Kay, DG CLIMA on 7/09/2021

In the framework of the CEI-Bois Sustainability Working Group, an informal expert meeting on the topic of the revised

LULUCF Regulation was organised on the 7th September.

This meeting was a **follow up of the previously organised meeting with DG CLIMA (20 November 2020)** where Mr Kay was invited to explain to the CEI-Bois Members the 2030 Climate ambition and the role of agriculture and land use.

On occasion of the November's meeting, the CEI-Bois technical expert, Dr Andrew Norton, emphasised the following key aspects:

- Some issues around quantifying the climate benefits of the forest-based industry: substitution is often ignored as benchmarks are difficult, carbon storage is “temporary” so often ignored at product declaration level. Common misconceptions are also generated by the idea that the sink in unmanaged forests increases indefinitely over time.
- There is a need for robust assessment methods at different scales: at Product / material level, at Building level to allow direct comparisons between construction methods, and also at national level, to test policy forming effects e.g. substitution effect for other materials.

On behalf of CEI-Bois, Dr Norton, put forward the following recommendations:

1. We must make sure that building with timber is incentivised, not restricted especially by offsetting and carbon trading
2. Storage of CO₂ needs to be recognized
3. In PEF and whole building assessments policy needs to see forests and timber as parts of the same solution.

Background Information:

On 17 September 2020 the European Commission adopted the communication “Stepping up Europe’s 2030 climate ambition - Investing in a climate-neutral future for the benefit of our people”, also commonly known as the 2030 EU Climate target plan. The European Commission propose an updated 2030 emissions reduction target of 55 % compared to 1990 levels, from the current 40 %.

The communication gives some concrete examples of possible amendments to be included and complete by the end of June 2021. In particular, the Communication looks into how the current Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation can contribute to expanding the land use sink. In addition, the agriculture and forestry sectors are an important source for feedstock, for the bioeconomy, for materials, for the construction sector and for bio-energy, allowing other sectors to reduce their emissions. In the target plan the European Commission reflects on the potential of a new sector covering non-CO₂ emissions from agriculture, forestry and land use. Due to the expansion of the above regulations, the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) might be repealed, if all sectors and objectives are covered by ETS and LULUCF or other legislation.

The objectives of the revision of the existing Regulation are to set simpler, more transparent and effective compliance rules and targets, to increase removals



of greenhouse gases within the EU to at least 310 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent by 2030, and to set an objective of a climate-neutral EU land sector by 2035.

Until 2025, the rules of the current LULUCF Regulation remain largely unchanged, most notably the so-called ‘no-debit’ rule and accounting principles. In contrast, from 2026 to 2030, several significant changes are proposed: **the target of increasing removals to 310 Mt CO₂ equivalent within the EU by 2030 is distributed among Member States as national targets reflecting each Member State’s current mitigation performance in the LULUCF sector and share of the managed land area in the EU.** The scope of the target is extended to all land reporting categories and compliance is based on reported, instead of accounted, emissions and removals in greenhouse gas inventories. The proposed process includes the definition of a linear trajectory leading to the overall EU target in 2030, with annual sub-targets determined for each Member State through implementing acts. The proposal also sets out the aim of climate neutrality in the combined sector by 2035, which will require a significant increase in carbon removals to balance remaining agricultural emissions. The Commission intends to propose individual Member State targets and EU-wide measures for the post-2030 period at a later stage, subject to an impact assessment and a new legislative proposal.

On 7 September, DG CLIMA senior expert, Mr Kay introduced the main changes of the LULUCF Regulation as proposed in the ‘Fit-for-55’ package published on 14 July 2021. His presentation was fol-

lowed by a Q&A session. Reported below, the key information provided during the meeting.

General objectives and drivers:

The underlying objectives of the proposal are very much part of the Green Deal; one of the biggest changes in comparison with past proposals is that this time the Regulation is trying to have a greater impact on policies, and not just setting the accounting rules.

The aim is to achieve environmental objectives while pursuing business opportunities through win-win solutions: e.g., the 3 billions trees planning initiatives, agroforestry, a more sustainable use of biomass such as in construction, the limit to use of biomass from highly biodiverse and carbon rich areas. There will be also synergy with the Restoration Plan expected by the end of the year.

New targets:

The adopted Climate law requires that emissions and removals balance out in 2050. To do that, carbon removal technologies need to be scaled up at industrial level, while also maintaining the land-based sinks. The -55% GHG emissions reduction target for 2030 requires a minimum contribution from the LULUCF Sector.

According to the Impact Assessment the state of play of the sector is not great: there is a decreasing trend of carbon removals in forests, soils and wood products, while sinks from livestock, fertiliser use, and soils are stable. It also seems that complex rules are a barrier to policy change: the new proposal sets more transparent and effective compliance rules, as well as new targets.



By 2030 Member State will have to collectively increase carbon removals to at least 310 Mt; by 2035 the entire land sector (including full agriculture and LULUCF) will have to be climate neutral.

The new 2030 national targets make it easier to convey what Member States are expected to do, although they have full choice on the tools: net removals can come from agricultural land, forests, wood products.

Considering that the average net removals in the EU land were 268 Mt in the 2016-2018 period, the extra effort of 42

Mt carbon removals has been shared by Member States in proportion of land area.

Accounting rules:

Almost nothing in the accounting rules will change in the 2021-2025 period, except for some rules for accounting for natural disturbances in Members with particular difficulties, e.g., with bark beetle.

Important changes affect accounting rules for 2026-2030: there are no benchmarks (*forest reference levels*) in the forest management sector, so there is full flexibility between the pools of the entire



sector. The HWP pool directly contributes to the removals that count towards the target.

Annual targets from 2026 to 2029 will be set for each Member State based on the latest inventories.

By 2035 the requirement is to balance emissions and removals in the entire agriculture and land sector as “pilot” for the whole economy. More assessment on how to do this is needed, as current agriculture targets are based on GDP, and LULUCF targets on land area.

The simplification goes hand in hand with the need for high quality data, better monitoring and reporting of carbon

removals to be matched with better monitoring of biodiverse areas.

As for **carbon storage products**, the core of the proposal is not changed. The UN-FCCC table is the reference for HWP reporting. But there have been no discussions for new products, whether wood- or cellulose-based or bioplastics. The opportunity to add new products will be linked to the **carbon removal certification initiative**.

Next steps:

The Commission already presented the proposal to the Council, while the Parliament is deciding on the attribution of the file. By the end of the year a Communication on certification of carbon removals and carbon farming initiatives is expected.





On the 10th September, the Directorate-General for Climate-Action (DG CLIMA) published the roadmap on the **upcoming Communication on Restoring Sustainable Carbon Cycles**, expected to be published by the end of this year (Q4, 2021). Official feedback to this new EU initiative were expected to be provided by the **7th October**.

The Communication will present the long-term role of nature- and technology-based solutions for the capture, storage or use of CO₂ towards a climate-neutral EU economy; **it will also clarify how a regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals can complement current climate policies.**

The current proposal for a new LULUCF Regulation addresses Member States and does not establish direct incentives for land managers, farmers or foresters to protect carbon stocks and increase removals. Therefore, in the assessment of the Commission, it will be necessary to create a system of incentives to realise the potential of carbon farming.

The Communication will thus identify the key elements to build a robust and credible framework allowing only for authentic, transparent and verifiable carbon removals to be certified.

As a follow up of this Communication, **DG CLIMA is expected to set up a proposal for a Regulation after 2024 on the certification of carbon removals**, part of the regulatory framework dedicated to nature-based and technological carbon removals, i.e., capture, recycling and usage of CO₂ through industrial applications.

Relevance for our sector:

- The Communication will discuss a range of **options for carbon removal and storage solutions**, and for recycling carbon from biomass, waste and directly from air to replace fossil carbon in the production of the fuels, materials and food of the future.
- It will present the **EU carbon farming initiative** to promote a **new green business model rewarding land managers, such as farmers and foresters, for climate-friendly practices**, to provide them with a new source of income by means of financial incentives to encourage activities leading to carbon removals and storage

4.3 Wood promotion

4.3.1 The Woodworking Industry and the new European Bauhaus

The New European Bauhaus is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative, convening a space of encounter to design future ways of living, situated at the crossroads between art, culture, social inclusion, science and technology. It brings the Green Deal to our living places and calls for a collective effort to imagine and build a future that is sustainable, inclusive and beautiful for our minds and for our souls.

Europe's woodworking industries have warmly welcomed the launch of the design phase of The New European Bauhaus initiative and the accompanying website in a joint press release together with Forest-based Sector Technology Platform, European Parquet Federation and the European Sawmill Organisation. Aimed at bringing the European Green Deal to life in an attractive, innovative and human-centred way the New European Bauhaus will have an initial five projects, two of which are of particular interest to Europe's woodworking industries, namely natural building materials and energy efficiency.

Commenting on the launch:

Silvia Melegari, Secretary General, CEI-Bois & EOS:

"This is a welcome initiative from the European Commission and we will be encouraging our members from across Europe to join the conversation to ensure we have a sustainable but also a beautiful future, two key attributes of the New European Bauhaus that wood products can help deliver."

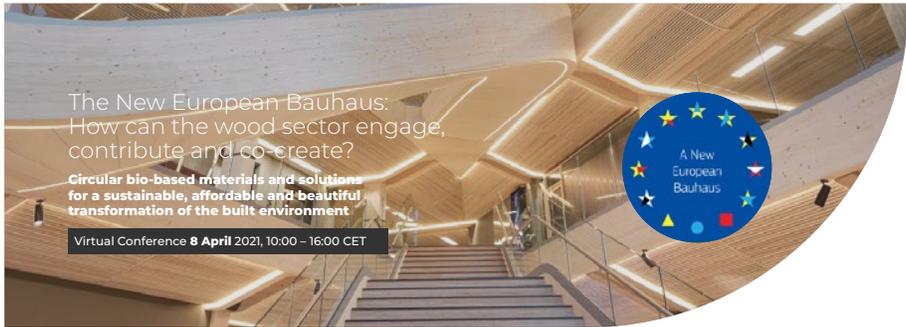
The European wood-based sector launched the Wood Sector Alliance for the New European Bauhaus (www.wood4bauhaus.eu) to establish an open platform of stakeholders.

This newly established sectoral alliance is initiated by several umbrella organisations: the InnoWood EU network for wood research, innovation and education, the European Wood-Based Panel Federation (EPF), the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS). It has also the support of the Horizon 2020 project consortia BASAJAUN and WoodCircus.

"I want NextGenerationEU to kickstart a European renovation wave and make our Union a leader in the circular economy. But this is not just an environmental or economic project: it needs to be a new cultural project for Europe."



– Ursula Von der Leyen



“REFOREST OUR PLANET, RETIMBER OUR CITIES”

Professor Schellhuber delivers strong message in support of a key role for wood in President Ursula von der Leyen’s New European Bauhaus

The wood4bauhaus.eu held its first online Conference on the 8 of April 2021 on the subject of “**How the wood sector can contribute to the new Bauhaus**”. The event gathered more than 1200 registered participants.

Professor Hans-Joachim Schellhuber of the Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany today delivered a powerful climate change message backing the use of more wood in the built environment.

Speaking to his theme - “Reforest the planet, retimber the cities” - Prof Schellhuber stated: “We need to create an alternative carbon sink and wood construction is the perfect answer. We can turn the timber into construction material in the built environment, recycle most of the wood [...] you have cascade utilisation and immediately replant the trees that you have taken away and even increase the forest area, then you have what I call the **‘Forestry-Construction Pump’**”.

Prof Schellhuber is acknowledged as being the mastermind behind the Commission President’s initiative for a New European Bauhaus.

Mrs Ruth Reichstein of the European Commission made it clear that:

“The President of the European Commission has become a huge fan of building in wood and is delighted to see the New European Bauhaus conversation growing every day. It is a project of hope, a project of recovery. Within it, renovation can be as valuable and beautiful as new construction. With this in mind, let us turn our cities into urban forests.”

Reichstein is the pivotal European Commission official in charge of developing the New European Bauhaus, including liaising between the cabinet of President von der Leyen and the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre.

Extract of the official press release, Brussels, 8 April 2021

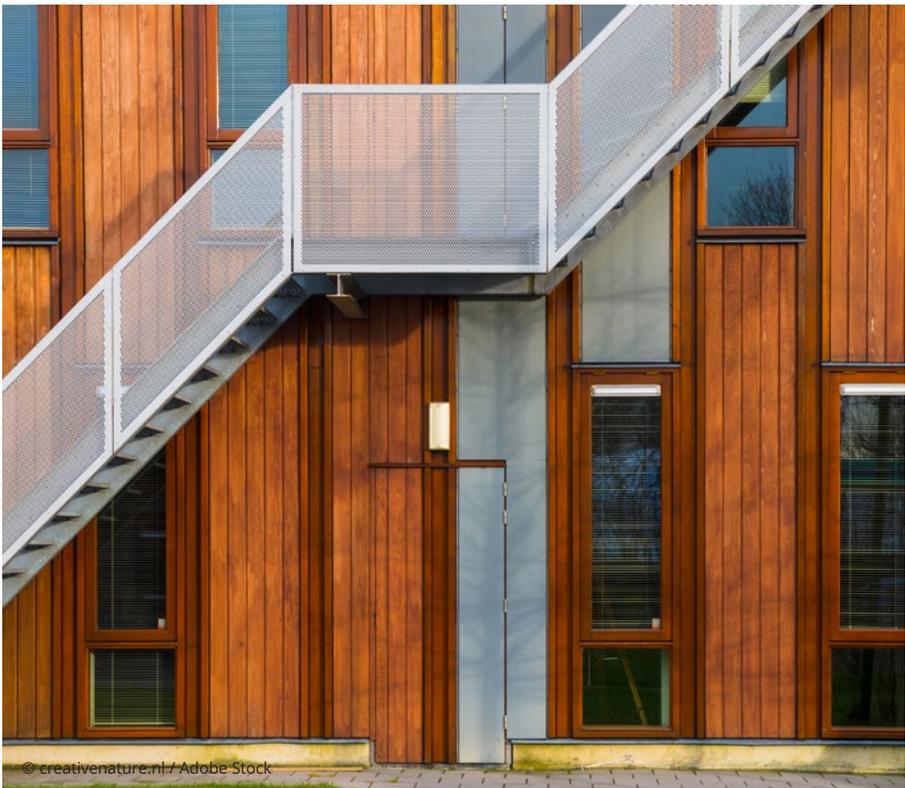


© 2021 Wood Sector Alliance for the New European Bauhaus | Wood4Bauhaus.eu
BASAJAUN and WoodCircus received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements no. 820892 and 862942.

During the conference Mrs Ruth Reichstein of the European Commission made it clear that: “The President of the European Commission has become a huge fan of building in wood and is delighted to see the New European Bauhaus conversation growing every day. It is a project of hope, a project of recovery. Within it, renovation can be as valuable and beautiful as new construction. With this in mind, let us turn our cities into urban forests.”

The wood4bauhaus alliance was accepted and confirmed by the European Commission as an official partner of the new european bauhaus on the 30 of March 2021.

Later in the year the Wood4Bauhaus Alliance received a formal request from Ruth Reichstein at the European Commission to submit suggestions/policy changes/developments that would from the Alliance’s perspective help assist the Bauhaus initiative achieve results.



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Copy of the conference programme is here reported.



“ We know that the construction sector can even be turned from a carbon source into a sink, if organic building materials like wood and smart technologies like AI are applied.”

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
State of the Union Address, 16/09/2020

The European Commission's New European Bauhaus calls for a creative, interdisciplinary, novel movement embedded in the society to imagine together a sustainable future and to engage on a transformative path towards affordable and beautiful living spaces in the urban and rural environment. A key step is the transformation of the building sector into a circular model that can also counteract the escalating climate crisis.

Welcoming this initiative, the European wood-based sector aims to create an open platform "Wood4Bauhaus" that brings together its manifold stakeholders. Wood is an extremely versatile material, and a circular material par excellence. Long-life products using wood can store carbon for decades or even centuries in buildings and living spaces. The conference aims to raise awareness for the transformative power of the Circular Economy, put a spotlight on the versatility of innovative wood-based products and building systems, and propose dedicated co-creation partnerships with the wood sector for the New European Bauhaus.



InnovaWood is EU network for wood science, research, innovation and education of 60 organisations in 28 countries, including RTOs, universities, VET centres and cluster organisations.
innovawood.com

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) is an umbrella organisation of 21 European and national organisations from 15 countries backing the interests of the whole wood sector.
cei-bois.org

The European Panel Federation (EPF) represents 100,000 direct jobs and counts more than 5,000 wood-based panel manufacturing and furniture companies in 25 countries.
europanel.org

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) is the European Trade Union Federation grouping 76 national free trade unions from 31 countries with members in the Building, Building Materials, Wood, Furniture, Forestry and Allied sectors.
efbww.eu

The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) represents 35,000 sawmills in 12 countries.
eos-oes.eu

BASAJAUN and WoodCircus are Horizon 2020 project consortia fostering sustainable wood supply chains from forest harvesting to final buildings and Circular Economy solutions in the sector.
basajaun-horizon.eu
woodcircus.eu

GO TO REGISTRATION FORM



PART I
10:00 - 12:00

Vision of the New European Bauhaus and its opportunities

10:00 - 10:10

Welcome & objectives of programme (of Part 1 & 2)

Andreja Kutnar



Keynote presentation: The vision of a New European Bauhaus

10:10 - 10:40

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber



PIK Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany



The New European Bauhaus: a beautiful, sustainable and inclusive transformation movement for Europe

10:40 - 11:00

Ruth Reichstein



European Commission, I.D.E.A. Advisory Board to the President, Green Deal & New European Bauhaus

11:00 - 11:15

Q&A: questions from audience



Moderator:
Prof. Dr. Andreja Kutnar
University of Primorska & InnoRenew CoE, Slovenia



Impulses: Future perspectives of the New Bauhaus for the wood and furniture sector

Co-creating for a new era of sustainable building solutions

11:15 - 11:25



Paul Brannen
Director of Public Affairs for CEI-Bois and EOS, Former MEP



Circular products enabled by the multi-talent material wood

11:25 - 11:35



Martin Brettenthaler
CEO of Swiss Krono Group, on behalf of EPF Managing Board



How can the wood sector co-create with other disciplines in the New Bauhaus?

11:35 - 11:45



Dr. Uwe Kies
Secretary General of the InnoWood network, Belgium



11:45 - 12:00

Q&A: questions from audience

Prof. Dr. Andreja Kutnar

12:00 - 12:10

Short break



PART II
12:15 - 13:30

Natural building materials and energy efficiency: strengths of wood solutions

Creative urban renewal with New Bauhaus: construction sector rediscovers wood

12:15 - 12:30



fm

Francisco Mangado & Fernando Oiza
Architects, Spain

Green solutions in public buildings: the Olympic village 2024 in Paris, France

12:30 - 12:45



FRANCE
BOIS
2024

Georges-Henri Florentin
President of France Bois 2024, France

Innovative industrial building solutions for better living and working

12:45 - 13:00



WAUGH THISTLETON
ARCHITECTS

Andrew Waugh
Director, Waugh Thistleton
Architects, UK

Biophilic design: wood for interior delivering health benefits and well-being

13:00 - 13:15



OLIVER HEATH
DESIGN

Oliver Heath
Designer, UK

Q&A: questions from audience
Short wrap-up/first conclusions

13:15 - 13:30



Prof. Dr. Andreja Kutnar
University of Primorska &
InnoRenew CoE, Slovenia

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch break (1:00h) / with animated presentation (statements/infos/pictures)



PART III
14:30 - 16:00

Good practices and solutions of Circular Economy and Green Building

14:30 - 14:35 Welcome back & overview



Moderator:
Dr. Anne-Christine Ritschkoff,
VTT Technical Research
Centre of Finland

VTT

Circular building materials and systems – Session I

Climacoustic : a modular, sound-absorbent insulating panel element from wood-fibres

14:35 - 14:45

Wood construction solutions for a better living and a better future

14:45 - 14:55

Structural insulating panel using wood and biobased materials

14:55 - 15:05



fantoni

Alessandro Fantoni
Commercial Director,
Fantoni SPA, Italy



SONAE ARAUCO
Taking wood further

Michelle Quintão
Group Marketing Director,
Sonae Arauco, Portugal



garnica

Alfonso Muñoz
Commercial and Marketing Director,
Grupo Garnica Plywood, Spain

15:05 - 15:10 Q&A: questions from audience

Dr. Anne-Christine Ritschkoff

Circular building materials and systems - Session II

Design for disassembly: a circular expo amphitheatre in wood

15:10 - 15:20

Furniture and interior: Windows using recovered wood

15:20 - 15:30

End of life / Recycling: Furniture boards from recovered wood

15:30 - 15:40



ARTBUILD

Steven Ware
ArtBuild, France



M SORA

Uroš Gantar
Project manager R&D
M'Sora d.o.o., Slovenia



UNILIN
FOR SMART LIVING

Veronique Hoflack
President, Unilin Panels, Belgium

15:40 - 15:45 Q&A: questions from audience

Dr. Anne-Christine Ritschkoff

15:45 - 16:00 Closing statement and outlook

Dr. Anne-Christine Ritschkoff and organizers

GO TO REGISTRATION FORM



4.3.2 Club du Bois

The Club du Bois is an information and discussion forum with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) jointly created by the European Panel Federation (EPF), the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS), in 2006.



The Club du Bois is intended to constitute a group of dedicated MEPs who are interested in and willing to support the proposals of the woodworking industries.

The first 2021 Club du Bois meeting was organised on the 27 of May 2021 at 12:00 CET. Due to the travel and meetings restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 propagation, the meeting was organised in an online format only.

The meeting focused on: “What is the potential of The Renovation Wave to store carbon via the use of sustainable wood products?” This meeting of the Club du Bois presented some initial research findings that seek to quantify the amount of carbon The Renovation Wave has the potential to store.

Background: Why the renovation wave is relevant for the Wood Industries.

On 14 October 2020 the European Commission presented the “Renovation Wave strategy” aiming for more and deeper renovation in Europe. With this Strategy, the Commissions’ target is to at least double this rate by 2030, while increase the average gains in term of energy efficiency. This could lead to renovate 35 million buildings in the coming decade.

As recognised by the EU Commission, delivering the depth and volume of renovation Europe needs, ultimately requires a strong and competitive construction sector, embracing innovation and sustainability to increase quality and reduce cost.

In this respect “**the Commission promotes environmental sustainability of building solutions and materials, INCLUDING WOOD and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions** and recycled materials on the basis of a comprehensive life-cycle assessment approach. It will address the sustainability performance of construction products in the context of its revision of the Construction Product Regulation and it will develop by 2023 a roadmap leading up to 2050 for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings.

The Commission will also accelerate work with standardisation organisations on climate resilience standards for buildings.”

**Report of the Club du Bois Meeting, Thursday 27th May 2021
“What is the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon via the use of sustainable wood products?”**

**Opening of the meeting –
Clive Pinnington,
Managing Director (EPF)**

Our theme today is wood in renovation. We have long wanted to quantify the potential climate contribution of renovating the aging building stock in EU with wood and wood-based products, including panels, and have now done so. Andrew Norton has assessed this and he will present the results together with Paul Brannen in a presentation followed by a Q&A session. This will be followed by policy recommendations with some time for questions. We will start with some opening words (pre-recorded) from our Chair MEP Simona Bonafè.



**Introduction by Simona Bonafè,
MEP and Chair of the Club du Bois
(video)**

To meet the international climate objectives a profound energy transition in buildings is urgently needed at EU level. We have recently approved the Climate Law with its CO₂ reduction of target at 55% for 2030 and the goal to become a climate neutral continent by 2050. Buildings are accountable for 36% of the total CO₂ emissions in the EU. Half of the final energy consumption in the Union is attributable to heating and cooling of which

A Renovation Wave for Europe

greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives



EU has 260 million building units

75% are currently energy inefficient

Hence 195 million need renovating by 2050

80% in buildings. In other words, there is a lot to be gained in the building sector.

Like the majority of my fellow Members of the European Parliament, I warmly welcomed the Commission proposal to launch a Renovation Wave for Europe's buildings. In its Communication launched in October, the Commission launched an encompassing and integrated strategy involving a wide range of sectors and actors. It identified as a key principle the need to minimizing the footprint of buildings which requires resource efficiency and circularity combined with turning parts of the construction sector into a carbon sink for example through promoting green infrastructure and the use of organic building materials that can store carbon such as sustainable sourced wood.

Indeed, the wooden construction materials can provide renewable alternatives to fossil-based and carbon intensive materials while replanting and sustainable forest management ensures that forests resources are not depleted. In this way constructions in timber are a key building block of the European circular bioeconomy bringing sustainable jobs in both urban and rural areas and reducing the carbon footprint of the buildings.

At the same time, it has become increasingly clear that renovation also has the potential to store carbon and today's workshop explores exactly the wood benefits to achieve this aim. This a good opportunity to discuss why the renovation wave should recognise the potential of the existing European housing stock and why the building stock can become a new carbon sink. It is important to keep in mind the potential of renewable construc-

tion materials such as wood with a specific intention of achieving this goal.

I am sure today's discussion will give us a clear framework based on scientific proofs over the potential of renewable construction materials such as wood to the specific intention of helping Europe achieve the decarbonisation objective.

Presentation: "What is the potential of The Renovation Wave to store carbon via the use of sustainable wood products?" – Paul Brannen, Public Affairs Director (CEI-Bois and EOS) and Andrew Norton, Technical Expert (CEI-Bois and EOS)

The European Union has about 260 million building units out of which 75% can be currently considered as energy inefficient. Hence, 195 million need renovating by 2050. In its first phase until 2030, the Renovation Wave Strategy aims at refurbishing 35 million building units. Those will be deep energy renovations.

If we are truly willing to make our buildings more energy-efficient and drastically reduce carbon emissions, the use of organic building materials that can store carbon, such as sustainably sourced wood, holds great potential. Nevertheless, so far, no attempt has been made to quantify this potential to store carbon in the built environment.

This call for using organic building materials that can store carbon echoes the work of Prof Schellnhuber of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research who inspired President von der Leyen herself to launch the New European Bauhaus and to reforest our planet and retimber our cities.

Prolonging the life of harvested wood products

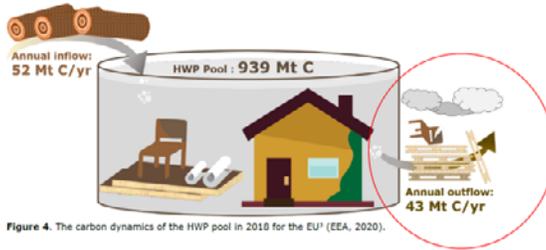


Figure 4. The carbon dynamics of the HWP pool in 2018 for the EU³ (EEA, 2020).

Source: Grassi et al., *Brief on the role of the forest-based bioeconomy in mitigating climate change through carbon storage and material substitution*, European Commission, 2021



Wood can sequester carbon through photosynthesis, store carbon throughout the whole life cycle of the long-lived harvested wood products and substitute other carbon intensive materials.

A Study on “[Climate effects of the forest-based sector in the European Union](#)” has shown that storage & substitution of carbon in harvested wood products can together offset 20% of Europe’s annual CO₂ emissions.

Therefore, the renovation and extension of existing buildings with wood construction can contribute significantly to sustainable urban redevelopment. The advantages of specific wooden constructions can be related to many different aspects, such as construction type and material properties, building execution, design, logistic and sustainability.

At the moment, about 1.8 giga ton of CO₂ is already stored in our current building stock which corresponds to more than half the above ground CO₂ equivalent stored in the Swedish forests.

Among the solutions that the wood sector could immediately implement is not only store carbon in harvested wood prod-

ucts for construction and renovation but to incentivise it by enhancing longer life cycles and less production of waste. We therefore need to renovate to extend the building’s life cycle and use demolition only as a last resort. We indeed ought to prolong the carbon storage in the current building stock. We estimated that the demand can be up to 2-6 t CO₂ equivalent stored per dwelling, depending on the wood products used for renovation while drastically reducing emissions from functionally equivalent materials.

There are many examples of wood-based product that can be used in a renovation. Insulation with wood fibres for example has a lot of benefits: it saves energy, while at the same times improves acoustic insulation. Moreover, the wood fibre regulates relative humidity, making a more comfortable environment, and can

Renovation to extend the building’s life means:

- Prolonging the carbon storage in the current building stock
- The demand is up to 2-6 t CO₂ eq stored per dwelling, depending on the wood products used for renovation while reducing emissions from functionally equivalent materials

be made out of waste wood. Renovation might also mean repurposing of existing building envelopes – reconfiguring old and obsolete house layouts opening to fit our modern needs with partition walls. Wood partition walls have good sound insulation properties and replace more impacting materials such as popular steel. Another good example is the window frames: as we put in more efficient glazing, we see that the choice of frame used can have big impact as well in terms of global warming potential.

Moreover, wood can be turned into a product, reused, and at the end of its life it can be recycled into something else, notably in wood-based panels. Circular renovation with wood-based panels allow to keep wood in circulation for as long as possible and therefore can help reduce CO₂ emissions and continue to store carbon longer. Indeed, by processing wood residues/waste into high-quality panels, the wood industries contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions.

To conclude, our final message is that we need to account for carbon storage at both product level and at building level. Such accounting ought to reflect the substitution effect in renovation and, finally, we need to prolong the carbon storage by increasing the lifetime of wood products through reuse and recycling.

Questions & Answers I

That the EU built environment has the same carbon storage effect as half of the Swedish forest is fantastic. It really shows the benefits of building with wood.

The tallest wooden building in the world is in Norway 85 meters but we could go taller but in terms of storing carbon int is in ordinary houses where the big potential is. In Scotland more than 75% are built from timber yet in England it 25%. We ought to do more in the future.

There is a risk that wood is mainly considered as carbon sink in forests. We need to consider ways to account for wood products along side forests as a means of increasing the forest sink. The 'fit for 55' package could be a game changer.



Incentivising storage is important. DG CLIMA is exactly studying this with Trinomics since December last year. They will present their findings in June. We look forward for the Commission's proposal to implement harmonised incentives through an EU wide carbon credit system.

The Union as a whole should start sustainably using recycled materials as carbon sink just like in Italy where not only OSB, but also new technology is being applied for using recycled wood in the production of MDF panels.

There is an illusion in EU policy that when you harvest a tree you have a carbon debt. That illusion is detrimental for the renovation wave and for the whole forest value chain. We all embrace the need to put trees to good use to further increase the carbon sink.

**Policy recommendations by
Margherita Miceli, Sustainability
Policy Adviser (CEI-Bois)**

Some specific recommendations were finally put forward by the industry:

- 1. Acknowledge the benefit of stored carbon at product level:** such benefit should be quantified and incentivised by using the right tools such as Environmental Performance Declarations for construction products. EPDs should be established as the harmonised reference tool for assessing the environmental footprint of construction product within the revision of the Construction Products Regulation.
- 2. Acknowledge the climate benefit of wood at a building level:** there is a need to move beyond the energy performance metrics. The revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) offers the opportunity to introduce requirements to report and reduce the emissions of a building over the entire lifecycle, including manufacture, transport, construction, use and demolition.
- 3. Develop appropriate digital tools for carbon accounting:** there is a need to empower consumers and professionals to make the right sustainable choices in construction and renovation through digitalisation. Incentivising

Digital Design and Building Information Modelling (BIM) will make it possible to calculate the climate benefit and show architects and consumers the climate impact of longer life and designing for re-use and recycling.

Questions & Answers II

We need the proper standards for sound carbon quantification both at building and product level. Given the climate urgency, we need to act now and educate the users by presenting them accurate carbon accounting and show the benefits of carbon stored in wood.

As the renovation wave takes off, we should not underestimate how much wood can go into new built and renovation. We want both to deliver as much as possible to store carbon and to substitute other carbon intensive materials.

**Closing of the meeting -
Clive Pinnington,
Managing Director (EPF)**

We wanted to look at the potential contribution of wood in the renovation wave. We have confirmed that. We need now to explain it to decision-makers and then we need to find the right way to encourage it. As Club du Bois, we shall keep advocating for that. Thank you all for your kind attendance and input.

www.clubdubois.eu



28 May 2021

PRESS RELEASE

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL OF THE RENOVATION WAVE TO STORE CARBON IN THE EUROPEAN BUILT ENVIRONMENT CONFIRMED BY CLUB DU BOIS ORGANISERS

Advancements in building at both height and scale in engineered timber has understandably drawn attention to the potential of new build in wood to store carbon – a significant necessity in the battle against climate change. Switching to wood on a wider scale can help bring emissions down as trees naturally sequester CO₂ from the atmosphere and the carbon is then stored in the wood.

This potential lay behind Commission President von der Leyen’s observation in her speech to the European Parliament in September 2020 where she stated, “We know that the construction sector can even be turned from a carbon source into a carbon sink, if organic building materials like wood [...] are applied.”

What has received less attention is the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon and likewise make a similar contribution to tackling climate change.

Organised by the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Panel Federation (EPF) the Club du Bois met online on 27th May to consider the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon.

During the meeting the European Woodworking Industries called upon policy makers to:

- 1. Acknowledge the benefit of stored carbon at product level:** such benefit should be quantified and incentivised by using the right tools such as Environmental Performance Declarations for construction products. EPDs should be established as the harmonised reference tool for assessing the environmental footprint of construction product within the revision of the Construction Products Regulation.
- 2. Acknowledge the climate benefit of wood at a building level:** there is a need to move beyond the energy performance metrics. The revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) offers the opportunity to introduce requirements to report and reduce the emissions of a building over the entire lifecycle, including manufacture, transport, construction, use and demolition.
- 3. Develop appropriate digital tools for carbon accounting:** there is a need to empower consumers and professionals to make the right sustainable choices in construction and renovation through digitalization. Incentivising Digital Design and Building Information Modelling (BIM) will make it possible to calculate the climate benefit and show architects and consumers the climate impact of longer life and designing for re-use and recycling.

Such measures would result in less CO₂ being emitted AND a bigger carbon sink being created which taken together would result in much less CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Addressing the meeting **Simona Bonafè MEP** chair of the Club du Bois noted: “Wooden construction materials can provide renewable alternatives to fossil-based and carbon intensive materials while replanting and sustainable forest management ensures that forests resources are not depleted. In this way constructions in timber are a key building block of the European circular bioeconomy bringing sustainable jobs in both urban and rural areas and reducing the carbon footprint of the buildings.

“At the same time, it has become increasingly clear that renovation in wood also has the potential to store carbon and today’s meeting explores these benefits. This is a good opportunity to discuss why the renovation wave should recognise the potential of the existing European housing stock ... [to] ... become a new carbon sink.”

While **Eero Heinaluoma MEP** stated “Investments into wood-based products are needed as they promote sustainability and reduce emissions when replacing fossil-based products. The Commission needs to consider ways to account for wood products alongside forests as a means for increasing the forest sink.”

The meeting noted the important work of Professor Schellnhuber of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in promoting the storage of carbon within the built environment – work which has had a major influence on President von der Leyen’s thinking including on the development of her New European Bauhaus initiative, with its emphasis on sustainability, beauty and affordability, all criteria that wood can help deliver.

The meeting was of the view that 2 to 6 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent could be stored in wood products in each dwelling being renovated, while also reducing the emissions over the lifecycle of the building.

In the Q&A session between MEPs and industrialists there was an acknowledgment of the clear ability of the built environment to deliver additional carbon storage and thus considerable interest in the potential for a European carbon credits system to promote and even incentivise the use of wood and wood-based products. It is understood that the European Commission’s DG CLIMA is working on such a proposal, and the outcome of this is eagerly awaited.

End.



*The **European Panel Federation (EPF)** represents the manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 32 European countries. The EU wood panel industry creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. www.europanel.org*



***CEI-Bois** is the **European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries**. It represents 22 European and National organisations from 16 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector. www.cei-bois.org*



*The **European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS)** represents some 35,000 sawmills manufacturing sawn boards, timber frames, glulam, decking, flooring, joinery, fencing and several other wood products. EOS represents around 80% of the total European sawn wood output in a sector that has a turnover of around 35 billion EUR and employs about 250,000 people. www.eos-oes.eu*

4.3.3 COP26: The Wood Industry manifesto

In the framework of Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC that brings together governments from around the world to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change, the Wood Industries had decided to join forces and to deliver a clear message: using wood is essential to tackle climate change.

On 26 July, in one of Time for Timber podcast, Andrew Carpenter, Chief Executive of the Structural Timber Association, sat down with Paul Brannen, Director Public Affairs CEI-Bois & EOS, to discuss the most important event happening in 2021 - COP26.

The climate crisis is the number one priority across the globe and COP 26 will bring together world leaders to Glasgow for the first two weeks in November to debate and agree the necessary solutions. Structural timber will have to play a significant part in the future of construction as the industry is responsible for 40% of all emissions.

Regarding sources of carbon emissions, the construction sector is responsible for anywhere between 40 and 50 percent. During their conversation, Paul Brannen highlighted that it is therefore the duty of the construction industry to reduce that figure, whilst expressing his belief that timber provides the key means in which to do this.



“Wood is the only sustainable structural material which can enable a substantial and quick decarbonisation of the built environment working to science-based targets. Wood is one of our oldest natural building materials can provide a vision for future urban habitats, providing vast carbon sinks in our rural areas and huge carbon stores in our cities.”



Paul explained the three S's - sequestrating, storage and substitution. As a tree grows, carbon within the atmosphere is captured within the tree itself, this process is known as carbon sequestration. Once a tree is felled and processed into building materials, the sequestered carbon remains stored within the wood. The production of building materials such as cement and steel are particularly high emitters of carbon, by substituting them with timber, the environmental impact of construction is immediately lessened.

These are the core messages that Paul wishes to present to the politicians attending COP26. As he states, utilising timber within construction is low hanging fruit. Copy of the Wood Manifesto is available in the following pages.





Growing our
low-carbon
future

TIME FOR TIMBER

**Q: How can
construction help
keep 1.5° alive?**

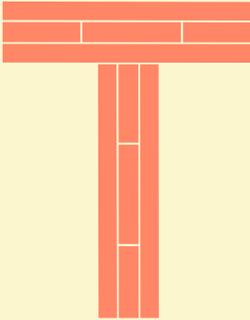
A: Use more timber

→ **Mjøstårnet**,
Brumunddal, Norway.
Standing 85.4 meters
(280 ft) tall, Mjøstårnet
is officially the world's
tallest timber building.
By Voll Arkitekter and
builders HENT and
Moelven Limtre, with
18 floors the tower is
setting new standards
for both height and
construction methods
for timber buildings.
(c) Moelven





TIME FOR TIMBER



The construction and built environment sector is responsible for approximately 40% of global energy related CO₂ emissions.ⁱ A significant percentage of this comes from the extraction, processing and energy-intensive manufacturing of building products.

To achieve net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050, construction must rapidly decarbonise whilst still meeting the needs of a growing urban population, the increasing demand for new buildings and the urgent requirement to renovate existing buildings.

Wood is the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable a substantial decarbonisation of the built environment based on existing business models and proven technology; providing vast carbon sinks in our rural areas and carbon stores in our cities.ⁱⁱ

The climate case for wood

Emissions from the built environment come from two main sources:

- **The energy we consume within buildings for heating, cooling and power (operational emissions)**
- **The emissions associated with the extraction, processing and manufacture of building products (embodied emissions)**

Increasing the use of wood is an effective way of reducing both.



TIME FOR TIMBER

Timber has naturally insulating properties, being 10 times more thermally efficient than concrete and 400 times more than steel, reducing operational emissions created due to heat loss within buildings.ⁱⁱⁱ This makes timber and timber products ideal for the renovation and improvement of energy performance in existing buildings.

forests are replanted or allowed to regenerate naturally and carbon sequestration continues.^v Increased investment in sustainable timber also provides viable income for local communities and creates incentives for sustainable forest management, preventing deforestation and encouraging conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.^{vi}

Wood is a naturally renewable material which:

- 1. Sequesters** carbon in forests as trees grow
- 2. Stores** carbon in harvested wood products
- 3. Substitutes** for carbon intensive materials such as steel, concrete and plastics
- 4. Drives Sustainable** forest management leading to greater growth
- 5. Contributes to a Circular** economy as wood products can be reused, recycled and recovered for low-carbon energy at end-of-life

In addition, using wood products in construction displaces the use of carbon intensive alternatives such as steel, concrete and plastics, thus reducing emissions even further.

Lifecycle Assessment studies consistently show that timber products absorb and store more carbon than is emitted through their production – making them a net carbon reducer.

Using more wood in the built environment, including in furniture and interiors, is a natural, cost-effective, and sustainable carbon-capture solution^{iv} – as once harvested,



Timber: the urban solution

Timber buildings have already been built that are more than 18-storeys in height, thanks to the development of new, innovative, engineered wood products – and will reach even greater heights this century.

Contemporary urban areas now enjoy buildings using wood at height and at scale. Products such as Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), Glued Laminated Timber (Glulam) and Laminated Veneered Lumber (LVL), have the structural strength of steel and concrete with the added advantages of being light in weight, thus not requiring such substantial foundations or significant transport to move.



Europe’s forest areas have increased by 10% over the last 30 years, at a rate of 643 thousand hectares per year.^{vii}

Likewise, in the United States and Canada sustainable forest management has resulted in more than 50 consecutive years where growth has exceeded harvest.^{vii}

This growth has been encouraged by the commercial management of forests for timber and other forest products.



◀ **Carbon 12, Portland, Oregon by Kaiser + Path**
 This 85-foot-high mass timber condo provides residents with modern luxury, sustainable design and state-of-the-art technology. Constructed with sustainably harvested and certified CLT, when it was completed in 2018 it was one of the tallest buildings of its kind in North America, and the project is opening the doors to taller wood buildings throughout the state.
 (c) Andrew Pogue

Timber and timber frame buildings can be prefabricated in offsite factories, requiring fewer deliveries to site and have quicker on-site assembly times, with far less dust and noise to disturb other local residents.

Wood offers modular possibilities to redesign and modernise buildings via additional storeys, roof extensions and interior refurbishment, maximising the lifespan of existing buildings and reducing the need for demolition. Recovered wood also has the potential for reuse in the



TIME FOR TIMBER

manufacture of new products extending the time the carbon is stored.

Despite some mistaken perceptions and rhetoric finished timber buildings have no greater fire risk than concrete and steel buildings.

Policy Recommendations:

We are calling on political leaders and policy makers in every country to recognise forests and the global wood and forest industries as a major solution toward a more climate-resilient economy. This can be achieved through the following policies:

1 Embed mandatory lifecycle assessments and embodied carbon thresholds within local and national building plans. Only by measuring our environmental impacts will we be able to manage and steadily reduce our impact. These should be measured according to common metrics using existing tools, such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPD).

2 Increase the use of wood within new build and renovation. There is a need for affordable homes all over the world. Up-scaling must be done in a cost and climate effective way, using off-site, industrial prefabrication based on light, high quality, easy to transport, and sustainable, wood-based solutions. This will allow for less disturbance next to construction sites, reduced waste and increased affordability.

3 Drive the growth of the bio-based circular economy through sustainable public procurement.

Harnessing government spending to advantage climate-friendly solutions for construction and renovation of the building stock will allow investment and rapid expansion of the sector, thus supporting societal climate reduction goals.

4 Facilitate resource efficient use of wood and wood recycling, especially collection and sorting in municipalities, and develop measures to gain access to post-consumer wood, an invaluable secondary raw material resource.

The recovery and reuse of wood helps to prolong carbon storage and maintain availability of resources for further life cycles. Using the same wood multiple times is the most efficient use of this natural, sustainable and precious resource.

5 Increase training to upskill workers and create new jobs

to boost the development of a sustainable and circular bioeconomy. New areas such as modern renovation and prefabrication require different skillsets and knowledge bases. Enhancing training and education is essential to a) create more sustainable, green jobs, b) develop the new skills in nature-based materials and c) improve the traditional manufacturing in wood industries.



TIME FOR TIMBER



In conclusion, wood must be adopted more widely in the global built environment. The potential climate impacts of using more wood and wood-based materials are immense: they offer solutions based on existing business models and proven technology which simultaneously store carbon and substitute fossil resources and thus can diminish the CO₂ emissions caused by the global building stock.

**Growing our low-carbon future:
Time for Timber**

↑ Brock Commons Tallwood House is an 18-storey student residence at the Point Grey Campus of the University of British Columbia in Canada. At the time it was opened in 2017, it was the tallest mass timber structure in the world.

Courtesy of Acton Ostry Architects. Photographer: Michael Elkan

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- ^{iv} Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering. 2018, Greenhouse Gas Removal, 46
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www.worldofwoodfestival.org/timefortimber



4.3.4 European bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future developments”

At the end of July, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the “European bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future developments”. As announced by the Commission, views and comments are expected to be taken on board in the Bioeconomy Progress Report as part of the implementation of the action plan. The Bioeconomy Progress report will set out the state of play of the European Bioeconomy and assess the progress of the implementation of the Bioeconomy Strategy and its action plan. In addition, it will provide the opportunity to present the contribution of the bioeconomy and the Bioeconomy Strategy in the context of Europe’s ambition to achieve a climate-neutral economy by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal.

In order to develop a new updated Bioeconomy European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries and the European Organisation of the Sawmill

Background:

In November 2019, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on the Bioeconomy Strategy, stressing that a sustainable European bioeconomy should be one of the major components for the implementation of the European Green Deal. The conclusions called upon the incoming Commission to deliver a progress report and if appropriate with update of the action plan and/or the Strategy at the latest by 2022.



Industry prepared a join answer to the consultation. Copy of the response is here reported.



8.8.2021 Response to the feedback consultation on the “European bioeconomy policy: stocktaking and future developments”

The European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry fully support the proposal of the EU Commission to publish an update of the Bioeconomy Strategy.

To be noted: comments reported on the next pages refer only to the forest-based bioeconomy.

The bioeconomy aims to contribute to climate protection, reduce energy production from fossil fuels, and reduce CO₂ emissions. The bioeconomy can also produce products that store carbon. The benefits from forest products to a sustainable development and green growth have been widely acknowledged. The Paris Agreement and the recently adopted EU Forest Strategy highlight the contribution of forests and forest products to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Sustainable and legally harvested wood products play a key role in strategies for transitioning to low carbon economies. The forest-based sector is considered to be one of the best providers of possible substitutions of fossil-based fuel sources, a producer of bio-based raw materials and a place for resource-efficient recycling. The use of sustainably managed forests' resources and residues for construction, renovation, furniture, but as well for energy, bioplastics, textiles, biomedical products are central to a bioeconomic transition.

In order to develop a new updated Bioeconomy European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry emphasises the following aspects:

- the importance of an inclusive governance for building and implementing sustainable bioeconomy strategies;
- the need for policy coherence in order to ensure a sustainable trajectory for the bioeconomy and creating green jobs, improving quality of life and boosting a green growth;
- the importance of participatory process when/if defining sustainability indicators;
- the need to develop a comprehensive strategy aiming at ensuring a sustainable wood supply for the EU forest

bio-based industries in respect of the EU environmental and social objectives. Moreover the impact on raw materials provision of environmental and climate policies should always be assessed;

- investments in R&D are needed to continuously increase material efficiency, applications and wood by-products uses; it is necessary to identify mechanisms that are needed to promote the development of new products and pathways to scale up new products;
- reducing bureaucratic procedures to encourage forest enterprise activities;
- the importance of education and training to build new skills for the forest based sector, particularly in rural areas;
- the interest of public/private partnerships to accelerate the rise of wood-based bioeconomy;
- the importance of facilitating a positive public acceptance of sustainable forestry and production and increasing awareness of its benefits for the environment, the society and the economy;
 - the need to engage youth to increase interest and participation in the forest bio economy.

Bioeconomy can bring positive results particularly in the construction and renovation sectors. A lot of CO₂ is produced in the housing and construction industry and this is something that must change.

The construction sector is very resource intensive and characterized by one of the highest carbon footprints: an estimated 40% percent of all global carbon emissions stem from the building and construction sector.

Increasing the use of renewable materials, mainly wood, in buildings, can make con-

struction and renovation more sustainable and a key part of the bioeconomy. As part of the natural carbon cycle, the use of wood plays a central role in the sequestering and storage of the most important greenhouse gas - carbon dioxide. In addition, the use of wood contributes to emission reduction through the substitution of products that are energy-intense in their production. "Based on 18 comparisons across four continents, we found that substituting conventional building materials for mass timber reduces construction phase emissions by 69%, an average reduction of 216 kgCO₂e/m² of floor area. Studies included in our analysis were unanimous in showing emissions reductions when building with mass timber compared to conventional materials." (Himes and Busby (2020) Wood buildings as a climate solution. Developments in the Built Environment, 4, 100030.)

With the rise of engineered wood products, wood has increasingly been used in the construction of increasingly tall and large residential and office buildings. The integration of circularity principles into this sector can further contribute to a transition towards a sustainable, low carbon economy, reducing carbon emissions and waste on a mass scale.

For more detailed information, download our publication: WOOD BUILDING THE BIOECONOMY*

4.3.5 Sustainable Products Initiative

Developing a Sustainable Products Policy Initiative is a key part of EC's Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe (CEAP) and one of the main flagships of the European Green Deal and a pillar of the New Industrial Strategy for Europe. With this initiative, the EU Commission is expected to make products fit for a climate neutral, resource efficient and circular economy, reduce waste and ensure that the performance of frontrunners in sustainability progressively becomes the norm. Consumers, the environment and the climate will benefit from products that are more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable, and energy efficient. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals in products such as electronics & ICT equipment, textiles, furniture and steel, cement & chemicals.

A first proposal of the EU Commission is planned for Mid-December 2021.

According to the preliminary information released, the key element of the initiative is the scope of the Ecodesign Directive, which will be widened beyond energy-related products to become applicable to the broadest possible range of products. The Commission is also expected to establish sustainability principles and other mechanisms to regulate the sustainability-related aspects of product-related instruments while respecting international trade agreements and WTO rules.

The Sustainable Product Policy Initiative aims to correct several market and regulatory failures. First, the linear production

* https://f15e48fb-651f-4f51-bf48-c1e0302f673f.filesusr.com/ugd/5b1bdc_a674f675ec674ae0b888f3840eea591b.pdf

and consumption pattern of ‘take-make-use-dispose’ does not provide producers with sufficient incentives along the supply chains to make their products more sustainable. Second, EU initiatives and legislation only partially address sustainability aspects of products, and there is no comprehensive set of requirements to ensure that all products placed on the EU market become increasingly sustainable. Finally, there is a lack of reliable information on sustainability along value chains related to many products placed on the EU market de facto reducing the ability of economic operators upstream in the value chain to offer more sustainable products, and for consumers and procurers to choose products with the lowest environmental footprint.

In its feedback on the Sustainable Product Policy Initiative inception impact assessment CEI-Bois underlined that the sustainable use of natural resources, including forests and forest products, is a key tenet of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2015 Paris Agreement also highlights the contribution of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Technical and methodological progress has facilitated better monitoring of the life cycle of harvested wood products. This gives them a key role in strategies for transitioning to low-carbon economies.

A natural, renewable material, wood has a uniquely low impact and resource-efficient production and processing cycle, which has numerous applications in construction, furniture products and interiors, packaging and more, contributing to develop a sustainable green economy.

CEI-Bois contribution to the Sustainable Product Policy Initiative Consultation:

- Wood is a natural insulator due to air pockets within its cellular structure. As an insulator wood is 15 times better than masonry, 400 times better than steel, and 1,770 times better than aluminium.
- Wood products store carbon and, at the end of multiple lifecycles, can be used as a carbon neutral energy source.
- Finally, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people are spending more time in their home than ever before. Homes have been serving as makeshift workplaces, schools and gyms. Wood can contribute to happier living spaces. Research has shown that reducing the amount of man-made materials and introducing natural alternatives, such as wood, lowers stress and anxiety levels at home. Marjut Wallenius, a doctor of psychology at the University of Tampere (Finland), declared: *“Wood has psychological effects on people and a similar stress-reducing effect to nature”*.

In its contribution CEI-Bois further highlights that to accelerate the transition to a sustainable, circular economy, the upcoming Sustainable Products Initiative should incorporate the following measures:

- Life-cycle assessment of the environmental impact of products should be the guiding principle of the initiative. Where already available, the use of harmonised standards to perform LCA should

be supported. This is the case of construction products: standards developed by CEN/TC 350, and in particular the standard EN15804, offer a harmonised methodology already in place to transfer environmental information about a product along the value chain. EN15804 provides a platform for presenting the environmental impact of construction products for whole building assessments, especially through the use of machine readable EPDs and Building Information Modelling (BIM). This allows professionals to assess environmental impacts as well as the benefits from all stages of construction activities, from design and planning to demolition.

- The uptake of climate-friendly materials should be incentivised. To that aim, criteria for a robust and transparent carbon accounting method to monitor and verify the emissions associated with the manufacture of the materials and their subsequent use for instance in construction, including benefits associated with carbon storage, should be developed at EU level. This is preliminary to designing effective incentives for increasing the share of low-carbon construction and renovation, for example in Green Public Procurement criteria.
- Measures to facilitate recycled content or remanufacturing in products are welcome; however, product-specific targets for minimum recycled content in construction products should be



carefully assessed and imposed only when technically applicable and economically feasible. For example, the usage of recovered wood has reached on average 40% of raw material needs in the European particleboard industry, with some countries using recovered wood for up to 90% of their wood procurement. However, this is not technically feasible for, e.g., solid lumber beams. Market factors driving demand for recycled wood also play an important role and vary across Europe. Furthermore, it should be noted that the “recyclability” and “reusability” factors depend very much on the global market. Any mandatory demand in relation to these two concepts would be highly problematic.

- Finally, the Initiative should be developed in synergy with the updated 2018 Bioeconomy strategy: the special role and importance of renewable materials in the circular bio-economy should be taken into account, and support should be given to the development of innovative biobased products through Research, Innovation and Development funding.



4.3.6 Speaking about wood!

“USING WOOD - A DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION IN GREENING OUR BUILDINGS”

The Swedish Forest Industries Federation together with the Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners held an event dedicated to “Using Wood-a decisive contribution in greening our buildings” on the 28 January 2021 in the frame of their Wood Be Better Network.

The event was hosted by Erik Bergkvist, Member of European Parliament (S&D), member of the REGI Committee and substitute in the BUDG and ITRE Committees and Paul Brannen (Director of Public Affairs, CEI-Bois) was amongst the confirmed speakers.

After a welcome introduction from the host, the discussion touched upon both policy developments and practical examples of sustainable business cases. Peter Handley (Head of Unit on Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials, DG GROW), presented the opportunities of the EU Bauhaus initiative and of the Renovation Wave, expected to double the renovation rate in the EU. Stefan Lindbäck, CEO of Lindbäck's Group, illustrated the case of the company, operating in the production of industrial-built houses, 2 to 8 storeys high, customers-designed. Prefabricated houses and close cooperation with supplying sawmills allow to minimize waste almost to zero and offer carbon friendly solutions.



Finally, Paul Brannen, asked about the industry's contribution to the Green Deal, highlighted the role of wood in newbuilt construction, timber-on-top solutions and renovations. "What is the potential of the Renovation wave to store carbon via the use of wood-based products? We quickly need research in this area, as the climate mitigation potential might be as big as in newbuilt. There is also a role in the Bauhaus, given the declared interest in energy efficiency and sustainable materials."

MEETING OF THE UK PARLIAMENT'S ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTING: "WHY THE UK MUST USE MORE WOOD"

On 24 February, our Public Affairs Director, Paul Brannen attended the meeting of the UK parliament's all-party parliamentary group on forestry and tree planting: "why the UK must use more wood."

Paul's contribution was focused on 'Using more wood: big opportunities & bigger rewards'. He began by highlighting the need to house the world's growing population and the danger to the climate of continuing to build predominately using the carbon intensive materials of concrete, steel, brick and block. Wood is the only building material that can substitute for these materials and it has the additional advantage of storing carbon. His final point was to encourage people to think about the 3S framework. Sequestration of carbon by trees (plant more!) the storage of carbon in timber (new build and renovation) and the substitution of carbon intensive materials resulting for an increased use of timber especially in construction.

"CHARTER FOR WOOD 2.0 IN DIALOGUE" ONLINE EVENT ON THE 10TH OF JUNE 2021

The event series provides a forum for stakeholders from the sector and beyond to discuss current issues concerning the use of wood from sustainable forestry. Covering a wide array of topics related to the fields of action of the Charter for Wood 2.0, the events aim at knowledge transfer, the exchange of ideas and discussion on feasible solutions with regard to climate protection, resource efficiency and value creation.



15.20 hrs

Panel discussion „Wood use in times of climate change – the raw material's opportunities and limits from the point of view of policy makers, researchers and consumers“

- **Christian Holzleitner**, Head of Unit, Land Use and Finance for Innovation (CLIMA.C.3), European Commission, Brussels
- **Lena Ek**, Chair of the FTP Board, Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP), Brussels
- **Silvia Melegari**, Secretary General of the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Cofederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), Brussels
- **Dr Marc Palahi**, Director of the European Forest Institute (EFI), Joensuu, Finland
- **Prof Dr Dr h.c. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber**, German Climatologist, founder and former director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- **Dr Eva Ursula Müller**, Head of Department at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Berlin

The event was organised in cooperation with the Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. CEI-Bois' Secretary General spoke at the afternoon panel session dedicated to "Wood use in times of climate change – the raw material's opportunities and limits from the point of view of policy makers, researchers and consumers". It became clear that wood from sustainable forestry is indispensable - not only for climate protection and the transformation to a bio-based circular economy, but also as an economic factor. The extensive use of wood as a long-lasting carbon sink and alternative to materials with a disadvantageous environmental balance offers enormous potential, especially in the area of building and construction.

The presentations and stimulating discussions on the structures and programmes of the forestry and wood policies in France, Austria and Sweden showed that the exchange beyond one's own national borders is enriching and important, and that the series "Charter for Wood 2.0 in Dialogue" offers a valuable platform for this. In the concluding panel discussion on the opportunities and limits of wood use in times of climate change, it became clear that ways must be found to resolve conflicting goals within the Green Deal between the areas of biodiversity and increased wood use,

e.g. for wood construction in the building sector, but also that politics, business, science and civil society must work together in view of the major challenges regarding climate protection, value creation and the conservation of finite resources.

In her intervention Mrs Melegari (CEI-Bois Secretary General) stated:

“Health forests and wood products production goes hand to hands. The two things are interlinked and connected. Climate protection, bioeconomy, circular economy, in all these areas the wood working industries can bring an important contribution. There is no doubt that our value chain from the sawmill industries to the pulp and paper is a positive example of circular bio-economy. We value each piece of wood. From logs to bark, there is an application.”... “Forest protection is high in the EU agenda, but from who or what we need to protect our forests. Forests are under pressure due to climate change, pest diseases and natural events. Selling wood has represented an important solution in these cases. Unfortunately the economic value of forests, when discussing forest protection is completely underestimated, and often not even taken into account.”... “R&D also plays a fundamental role in wood promotion. Considering that our forest composition will change, we absolutely need to invest more in new wood application for un-used wood quality. To promote wood, we shall at the same time to create favourable legislative and market conditions aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of the entire value chain.”

Around 250 viewers followed the livestream and participated virtually in the discussions.

4.4 Wood in construction

4.4.1 Brexit: update on UK CE Marking recognition for construction products

On 25 August, the CEI-Bois Members were informed that the UK Government updated its Guidance providing practical information for placing construction products on the GB market.

The notable piece of news is that, according to the website, “*all goods which previously required the CE marking will not need to use the UKCA marking until **1 January 2023***”; this means that the initial deadline of 1 January 2022 for the ending

of the recognition of the CE Marking has been pushed back by one year, and that CE marked goods – including timber construction products – can continue to be placed on the UK market in 2022.

“Businesses must prepare for the end of recognition of the CE mark in GB and affix the UK marking using a UK-recognised ‘approved body’. Our intention is to end recognition of the CE mark by 1 January 2023. Current rules will remain in place until legislation is laid to end recognition of the CE mark.

Businesses should comply with the new UK regime, as soon as possible. This includes use of the UK mark in GB. To allow businesses time to adjust, some CE marked goods, that

meet EU requirements, may continue to be placed on the GB market.

However, we intend for this arrangement to end on 1 January 2023, and businesses should ensure they are prepared for the new system before it comes into effect after we have laid legislation."

Please note that, despite the postponement, the position of the UK government seems to be unchanged: recognition of CE marking is ending and businesses who wish to continue supplying construction products to the UK need to implement the of UKCA marking as soon as possible

4.4.2 Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings directive

As part of the European Green Deal, the European Commission plans a potential revision of the EU energy performance of buildings directive (EPBD) to help deliver on the EU's increased climate ambition for 2030 and 2050. The EPBD was originally adopted in 2010 and later amended in 2018 with a view to improving the energy performance and increasing the rate of renovation of commercial and residential buildings in the EU. The European Commission started last March the consultation process on EPBD.

In the framework of the review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the European Confederation of the wood working industries provided its contribution to the public consultation. Reported below, the key messages expressed in its response.

CEI-Bois welcomes the "Renovation wave" initiative as part of the EU Green Deal, and the consequent revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The European Woodworking Industry is a strong advocate of the role of sustainable construction for a climate-neutral European economy and supports the use of timber construction as an immediate way to achieve long term carbon storage in products, as also recognised in the 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan.

As trees grow, they take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and, even when they are harvested, carbon remains stored in the wood for the lifespan of the product. On average, 1m³ of wood stores the equivalent of 0.9 tons of CO₂. It is estimated that it is possible to store several tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per dwelling depending on the wood products used for renovation, while also reducing emissions due to the substitution effect. That is to say that wood can replace materials such as steel and concrete the production of which results in high levels of CO₂ production; the substitution factor is estimated to be between 1.3-1.6 kg C/kg wood product¹.

Renovation offers the opportunity to reduce the demand for energy of the building stock, which represents today 40% of the EU final energy consumption. Renovating in wood can in addition offer something that other materials cannot offer; that is the ability to store carbon and thereby also to increase the size of carbon sink in our cities and urban areas

1 Pekka Leskinen, et al., 2018. Substitution effects of wood-based products in climate change mitigation. From Science to Policy 7. European Forest Institute.

in addition to the sink delivered by new build².

Although the Renovation Wave Strategy commits the Commission to produce by 2023 a whole life-cycle performance roadmap to reduce carbon emissions from buildings by 2050, some decisive steps can be taken already in the context of the EPBD revision. It is necessary to promote an **integrated approach** to renovation and the built environment, by promoting with public and private financing schemes for energy efficiency while also addressing embodied carbon, resource efficiency and circularity principles to reduce whole lifecycle emissions.

- It is necessary to adopt a whole life carbon perspective now, such as through the requirement to report on GHG emissions of buildings throughout the life cycle, and not just energy performance of buildings, both for new construction and renovations: requirements for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEB) should go beyond operational energy performance and gradually include requirements to reduce whole life-cycle emissions.
- Financial support provided under the EPBD should also be linked to an assessment of whole life-cycle emissions savings (embodied carbon+operational carbon).
- It is recommended to set up Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) as climate performance standards (CO₂/m³/year) in the revision of the EPBD,

and to make them gradually compulsory for all categories of buildings

- One way to incentivise the long-term storage of carbon could be by issuing **carbon credits** for the carbon stored in Long Life Harvested Wood Products. This would increase the circularity of wood materials and could even place a value on the timber already in buildings – in some cases going back hundreds of years.
- Long Term Renovation Strategies adopted at national level should include measures to support and incentivise Digital Design and Building Information Modelling (BIM) to calculate carbon storage benefit and other environmental impact indicators and show architects and consumers the climate impact of longer life and designing for re-use and recycling.

Incentivising carbon storage benefits over time is a win-win solution in the context of the Renovation wave, as extending the life of wood products in construction and renovation allows to grow Europe carbon sink, reduce emissions through substitution and improve resource efficiency.

4.4.3 Taxonomy - CEI-Bois reply to Circular Economy criteria in building

The EU taxonomy is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. It aims at scaling up sustainable investment and implement the European Green Deal.

2 Churkina, G., Organschi, A., Reyer, C.P.O. et al. Buildings as a global carbon sink. *Nature Sustainability* 3, 269–276 (2020).

The EU taxonomy is expected to provide companies, investors and policymakers with appropriate definitions for which economic activities can be considered environmentally sustainable. In this way, it should create security for investors, protect private investors from greenwashing, help companies to become more climate-friendly, mitigate market fragmentation and help shift investments where they are most needed.



In a nutshell:

The Taxonomy Regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 22 June 2020 and entered into force on 12 July 2020. It establishes the basis for the EU taxonomy by setting out 4 overarching conditions that an economic activity has to meet in order to qualify as environmentally sustainable.

The Taxonomy Regulation establishes six environmental objectives

1. Climate change mitigation
2. Climate change adaptation
3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
4. The transition to a circular economy
5. Pollution prevention and control
6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

The taxonomy regulation empowers the Commission to adopt delegated and implementing acts to specify how competent authorities and market participants shall comply with the obligations laid down in the directive.

The Taxonomy Regulation tasks the Commission with establishing the actual list of environmentally sustainable activities by defining technical screening criteria for each environmental objective through delegated acts.

On the 3rd August 2021, the Sustainable Finance Platform launched a public consultation on its draft recommendations on technical screening criteria for the four remaining environmental objectives of the taxonomy. The consultation officially ran until 24 September.

Of particular relevance for our Industry is Chapter 5 of the Draft Report related to the Buildings, including construction of new buildings and major renovations of buildings for the transition to a circular economy. (*Taxonomy Regulation (Art. 2) defines 'circular economy' while Article 13 of the Regulation further specifies a list of means by which an activity can make a substantial contribution to the circular economy. Detailed explanations: pages 43 – 45 of the Taxonomy pack for feedback.*)

Reported below, an extract of the CEI-Bois response to this consultation.

1. CEI-Bois strongly supports the reference to the EN15978 standard, as it will allow to show the amount of biogenic carbon stored in the building. The same requirement to display biogenic carbon should apply in big renovation works. At the same time the temporary storage effect (calculated as a weighted average as per PAS 2050) should be displayed as a benefit and rewarded. Timber construction is an immediate way to achieve long term carbon storage in products, as also recognised in the 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan. It is estimated that timber construction could store up to 700 million tons of carbon per year at global level, while also substituting energy and carbon intensive materials: see Churkina G., et al. Buildings as a global carbon sink. *Nature Sustainability* 3, 269–276 (2020).
2. In relation to the minimum threshold of recycled content, re-used content, re-manufactured content and/or by-products: the criterion of renewability should be included and count against the 30% target. The use of renewable materials is an integral pillar to the circular economy, as conceptualised in the work of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (see also the report “The Nature Imperative: How the circular economy can tackle biodiversity loss, p. 26). Moreover, including renewable materials is necessary to ensure a level playing field for all building materials. For materials such as mass timber, there is not enough waste material available now for re-use or recycling due to the long service lives of buildings; moreover, in many cases the recycled product does not meet CE marking requirements under CPR. Additionally, including renewable materials alongside recycled materials would be consistent with other sections of the draft Technical Screening Criteria, as activities 2.17, 2.19, 2.21 all call for recyclable or renewable materials – or a combination – as part of their respective substantial contribution criteria to circular economy.
3. Although the goal to increase the re-use and recycling rate of construction waste is very positive, the target proposed (90% by weight) may be too high to be implemented in the short term for all material streams. The target was set by using as a baseline the rate of mineral construction and demolition waste in the EU in 2018 (79%), but the rate may change depending on the country and material streams, and for wood wastes it may be unfeasible to reach the 90% target in areas where

there is no infrastructure for wood recycling and no clear marked demand in the short term. It would be thus preferable to keep the current target embedded in the Waste Framework Directive (70%). On the other hand, timber construction allows for prefabricated solutions and offsite manufacturing, which minimizes the noise and waste production on site.

4.4.4 Promotion of timber construction in the EU

Back in March 2021, the Honourable Member of the Parliament, MEPs Henna Virkkunen (PPE) and Elsi Katainen (Renew) tabled a question for written answer on the “Promotion of timber construction in the EU”. Copy of the question and the correlated answer provided by the Commissioner Thierry Breton (DG GROW) on 17 August 2021 are both reported below.

Question for written answer E-001778/2021 – 31 March 2021, Henna Virkkunen (PPE), Elsi Katainen (Renew)

Buildings account for around 40% of overall energy consumption and approximately 36% of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use in the EU. As the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, mentioned in her State of the Union Address, the construction sector, however, can be turned from a carbon source into a carbon sink, if preference is shown for organic building materials like wood.

The Commission’s Renovation Wave Strategy, published on 14 October 2020, even states that besides stocking carbon emissions, timber construction avoids emissions that would have been needed

to produce conventional construction materials.

At the same time, however, the strategy contains no concrete measures to promote timber construction. The only measure that indirectly refers to it is the roadmap in connection with the revision of the Construction Products Regulation for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings.

1. What concrete legislative or other measures does the Commission intend to propose to ensure that the benefits of timber construction are recognised in the Member States and that the use of wood as a building material increases, for example in urban planning and public-sector construction projects?
2. Does the Commission intend to set an EU target for progress in timber construction?

Answer given by the Commissioner Breton on behalf of the European Commission – 17 August 2021

The Commission supports a holistic approach to achieving a sustainable built environment. The choice of materials in construction works needs to respond to various requirements including efficient structural design and safety, as well as decisions to lengthen the service life of buildings including by renovating rather than demolishing them. **The reduction of emissions over the whole life cycle of buildings therefore includes a wide spectrum of possible approach, including making optimal use of timber and other woody biomass-based materials.** Moreover, the [New European Bauhaus](#) offers an opportunity to develop creative solutions involving

bio-based and other low embodied carbon materials, while the [Horizon Europe](#) programme will support research and innovation, notably via the proposed [Built4People](#) and [Circular Bio-based Europe](#) partnerships .

Regarding specifically the use of wood in construction, the Commission acknowledged in the new EU Forest Strategy that there is considerable room for improvement. The Commission will develop a **2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings**. Also, in the context of the revision of the Construction Products Regulation, the Commission will develop a **standard, robust and transparent methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products and other building materials**. In addition, promoting the use of wood products in the EU requires demand-side actions. Member State level regulatory approaches also need attention.

4.4.5 Prioritize decarbonizing in the built environment

Last June, the European building sector leaders urged the EU to prioritize decarbonizing the built environment, in particular calling on the European Commission to support the full decarbonization of the built environment through ambitious policies.

CEI-Bois was one of the signatories of the World Green Building Council's open letter to EU policymakers calling on the European Commission to implement transformative policies for a fully decarbonised and circular built environment in Europe.

The coalition represents over 4,500 organisations across the real estate and

construction sector value chain who are calling on the European Commission to:

- Recognise the full potential of the building sector in delivering a climate neutral Europe.
- Ensure that the review of key legislative files, including the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), support a Whole Life Carbon (WLC) approach in addition to accelerating renovation, and greater accountability for achieved performance.
- Recognise the potential of Level(s) to deliver a harmonised implementation of WLC policy, building circularity and adaptability analysis.
- Deliver the EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment to ensure coherence across policies and coordinate the transition to a sustainable built environment in the EU.
- Work with the committed network of #BuildingLife stakeholders to develop and deliver these transformative policies.



Copy of the letter is here reported.

#BuildingLife Coalition Urges Action to Drive Decarbonisation of Europe's Built Environment

Introduction

A coalition of stakeholders across Europe, participating in the [#BuildingLife project](#), have come together to call on the European Commission to implement transformative policies that will lead to a fully decarbonised and circular built environment in Europe.

This coalition represents over 4,500 organisations across the real estate and construction sector value chain who are calling on the European Commission to:

- Recognise the full potential of the building sector in delivering a climate neutral Europe.
- Ensure that the review of key legislative files, including the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), support a Whole Life Carbon (WLC) approach in addition to accelerating renovation, and greater accountability for achieved performance.
- Recognise the potential of Level(s) to deliver a harmonised implementation of WLC policy, building circularity and adaptability analysis.
- Deliver the EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment to ensure coherence across policies and coordinate the transition to a sustainable built environment in the EU.
- Work with the committed network of #BuildingLife stakeholders to develop and deliver these transformative policies .

#BuildingLife

#BuildingLife is a regional project of the [World Green Building Council \(WorldGBC\)](#) that brings together a coalition of [Green Building Councils](#) across Europe - in [Croatia](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Spain](#) and the [UK](#) - to drive decarbonisation of the building sector through private sector action and public sector policy.

Via the #BuildingLife project, a European Leadership Forum and 10 National Leadership Fora with diverse leaders across the built environment value chain are working collaboratively to build consensus and steer the direction of EU and National Whole Life Carbon Roadmaps.

Why Buildings?

In Europe the use of buildings accounts for around 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions. And this is just the operational impact of buildings. Globally, 11% of emissions are from embodied carbon in construction - the emissions created from the construction, demolition and the wider supply chain of a building.

Moreover, Buildings also account for around 50% of all extracted materials, 33% of water consumption and 35% of waste generated.

Although there are figures available globally, a scarcity of data in Europe means there is not yet a common consensus about the extent to which emissions can be attributed to embodied carbon in Europe's building stock. However, what we do know presents a compelling case for action.

It is estimated that embodied carbon today contributes typically between 10-20% of the EU building CO₂ footprint depending on factors such as building type, construction technique & materials, grid intensity, etc. In some European countries with low carbon energy the embodied share can already be as high as 50%¹. In the future, as buildings become more efficient and the grid more decarbonised, the relative share of embodied emissions will increase.

Further, the carbon footprint of materials and equipment used in construction and renovation to deliver the buildings' basic requirements and operational performances will decrease as manufacturers decarbonise their supply chains and operations. It is important they are sent a market signal on how fast they will have to do it.

Time to consider a Whole Life Carbon Approach

Currently the embodied carbon impacts of buildings are covered via various directives (e.g. EU ETS, transport legislation, energy taxation), but not yet in a way that can sufficiently drive demand for low carbon buildings and products. In other words, there is a significant opportunity to unlock the potential of the buildings sector in addressing climate change.

The greatest opportunity to address operational and embodied carbon in any project occurs during the early design stages. If the whole life impact is not addressed at that point then the opportunity to make carbon reducing decisions diminishes and costs increase. With this in mind, it is imperative that actions to achieve emissions savings throughout the building lifecycle, including at an early stage, are taken now.

The most effective approach is one that addresses **both operational and embodied carbon ('Whole Life Carbon') in an integrated manner**. Such an approach will ensure that the building sector is playing its optimal role in delivering a climate neutral Europe.

Supporting Transformative Policies

Delivering the Whole Life Carbon approach requires the establishment of strong policies - underpinned by principles of resource/material, circular economy, and energy efficiency - that support transformative action at the local, national, and European level.

A climate neutral Europe will not become a reality unless EU Policymakers in the Commission, Parliament and Council support these policies. The reviews of key policy and legislative files such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Taxonomy and the forthcoming strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment represent an opportunity for the Commission to start integrating 'Whole Life Carbon' into the policy framework. The indicators on Whole Life Carbon in the Level(s) framework should be the starting point to support this integration in setting the trajectory for the wider EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment.

Such action at the building level must also be well coordinated and aligned with policy actions upstream on raw materials and construction products (e.g. Construction Products Regulation), as well as end-of-life policies addressing waste and closing the loop/increasing circularity (e.g. Waste Framework Directive).

¹Material Economics (2019) [The Circular Economy - a Powerful Force for Climate Mitigation](#)

The Sector Is Ready to Support

Via the #BuildingLife project, a coalition of stakeholders representing the entire value chain and leading European environmental organisations are working on an EU Policy Whole Life Carbon Roadmap to outline the appropriate routes to support the implementation of WLC policy into the EU Policy Framework. This process is also being replicated on the national level in 10 European countries.

With this wide cross-sector support and a community of committed stakeholders, we call on the European Commission to work with us to deliver policies that enable the built environment sector to tackle its total carbon and resource impact.

We are ready and willing to work with the European Commission and invite you to join the conversation #BuildingLife.

Supported by





4.4.6 The use of Propiconazole in wood preservatives for timber windows and doors

Background:

Based on the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR 528/2012), many Active Substances with fungicide activity are currently approved for the use in Wood Preservatives PT 8. Among these, only 5 substances can be applied by surface treatment with effective protection against wood destroying and blue stain fungi, which are necessary for wooden products in Use Class 3 2 such as window frames, doors or facade elements. All wood protection products suitable for timber windows and doors are using Propiconazole, Tebuconazole, IPBC or combinations of these. While Propiconazole is approved as Active Substance in Film Preservatives (Product Type 7) at least until 30.11.2026 (see (EU) 2015/1609), its approval period for Wood Preservatives (Product Type 8) is up for renewal until 31.03.2021 (see (EU) 2020/27).

The same renewal evaluation is about to affect 2 other active substances: Tebuconazole on 30.09.2022 (see (EU) 2019/1951) and IPBC on 31.12.2022 (see (EU) 2019/1969). The expiry date of Propiconazole is primarily a consequence of its recent classification as Reprotox 1B (toxic for reproduction) by the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of ECHA, which represents an exclusion criterion for Active Substance approval according to BPR. In addition, an ongoing evaluation is looking into the possible classification as an endocrine disruptor, which would be a further exclusion criterion. In terms of timeline, there is currently the possibility of a further one-year transitory extension, if the re-evaluation procedure cannot be completed in time.



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On the 1st of September, CEI-Bois, EuroWindow and Small Business Standards (SBS) published an updated position paper including results of new studies scrutinizing for possible alternatives for propiconazole in wood preservatives for timber windows and doors. The studies show no suitable biocidal alternatives for propiconazole for sustainable wood-based products in construction. Therefore, the three associations call for a renewal of the approval of propiconazole and extend their invitation for a public-private partnership to develop long term sustainable alternatives.



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

New Studies show no alternatives to propiconazole CEI-Bois, EuroWindow and SBS call for a renewal of the approval of propiconazole for use in wood preservatives for timber windows and doors

The expiry date of propiconazole was pushed from the 31st March 2021 to 31st December 2022 giving the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) more time to assess. Part of this assessment is a public consultation for possible alternatives or substitutes for propiconazole. To feed into the consultation studies were conducted in 9 European countries to screen for suitable alternative wood preservatives over the past months. The findings are alarming for the wood working industry.

Propiconazole is needed for a couple of reasons in the wood working industry. The humid European climate and certain regulatory requirements as contained in several European Standards such as EN 599-1 and EN 335 makes it necessary to treat the timber sash and frame against fungal attacks. This also increases the use of wood in construction products and more specifically in windows and doors. Timber window and door manufacturers are currently using the approved active substance propiconazole in combination with one or two other active substances (Tebuconazole and/or Iodopropynyl Butyl Carbamate (IPBC)) when impregnating timber. This combination is essential to keep the total amount of active substanc-

es at a minimum, limit the concentration of impregnation product and at the same time ensure a long service life for the windows and doors.

The results of the studies shows that there are currently no suitable products free from propiconazole or tebuconazole and IPBC. A ban of propiconazole would therefore be problematic for the wood working industry as both, tebuconazole and IPBC, are also under revision and about to expire on 30.09.2022 (tebuconazole) and 31.12.2022 (IPBC). A potential ban of propiconazole would leave the wood working industry without any biocidal product ready to use in January 2023. Many wood products would be without an appropriate protection against outside factors, like rain or fungi, resulting in rapid deterioration of the material. This is neither sustainable nor economically viable.

In the renovation wave strategy, the European Commission points out that wood is a precious nature-based construction material as it can have double benefits of *“stocking carbon emissions in buildings and avoiding emissions that would have been needed to produce conventional construction materials”*. For the European Union

the development is self-defeating with its aim in the Green Deal to use more organic construction material and become the first climate neutral continent, an aspect which is even more in the focus with the newly presented Fit-for-55 package from the European Commission.

Without renewal of the approval of propiconazole many users of wood material would be excluded from the market and may be forced to use other construction materials, going against the climate ambition of the European Union. The reasons for the exclusion are the difference in properties by hardwood and softwood and the need for biocides especially for softwood (as explained in the Annex I of the joint position paper). A consequence would be changes in the type of woods used, as classic wood species originating in the EU (e.g. Sweden, Alps) can no longer be used in some cases and have to be replaced by other wood species extracted from non-EU locations. For users of these wood preservatives, the priority is on the development of practical solutions that would ensure the use of wood as a

sustainable material and not in defending a specific chemical substance.

Therefore, CEI-Bois, EuroWindoer and SBS support the following decision to maintain the relevancy of the timber window and door industry: Renew the approval of propiconazole until an equivalent substitute is available, tested and assessed for use in timber windows and doors.

CEI-Bois, EuroWindoer and SBS would also like to renew and reoffer their call for a public-private partnership on wood preservatives to be initiated by the European Commission without delay, where public authorities and the industry can agree on sustainable alternatives to biocidal products containing the active substances propiconazole, tebuconazole and IPBC. The first inquiry towards the European authorities to find a new product to replace propiconazole in an appropriate amount of time was denied earlier this year. Non the less there is hope to come together in a long run to find a solution.



4.5 Forests Related Issues

4.5.1 The New EU Forest Strategy: overview of the CEI-Bois advocacy actions

One of the many actions planned under the Green Deal is the New EU Forest Strategy, a non-legislative initiative which the Commission presented in July 2021. Already in November 2020, as the post-2020 Forest Strategy was undergoing preparatory works at the European Commission, CEI-Bois together with other European forest and forest-based sector organisations, represented by the private and public forest owners and managers, forest-based industries as well as the representatives of workers, contractors and professionals, addressed a joint letter calling on the European Commission to make swift progress with the Forest Strategy post-2020.

The letter was addressed to the President of the European Commission, Mrs Ursula von der Leyen and was signed by the former CEI-Bois President, Mr. Anders Ek.

In this letter, CEI-Bois and the other signatories maintained that the EU Forest Strategy is the main policy instrument for integrating European forests and the forest-based sector into other EU policy areas relevant to the sector. As such the signatories pleaded for a holistic, multi-dimensional and inclusive framework, with sustainable forest management principles at its core, to ensure an effective, well-coordinated and balanced further development of the EU instruments related to forests and the forest-based sector.

In April 2021 following its official reply to the EU Public Consultation regarding the new Forest Strategy, CEI-Bois published together a Position paper with EOS encouraging the EU Commission to prepare the new Forest Strategy having an holistic and coherent view of the different EU policies that already cover forestry aspects. Copy of the joint position paper is here reported.



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Towards a new EU Forest Strategy: position of the European Woodworking Industry

16 April 2021

CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries, and EOS, the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, encourage the EU Commission to prepare the new Forest Strategy having an holistic and coherent view of the different EU policies that already cover forestry aspects. In particular, CEI-Bois and EOS call for a **coherent framework** for all the initiatives planned under the European Green Deal that bear an impact on European forests, ranging from climate and environmental policy to agricultural development and circular bioeconomy.

In line with the European Parliament resolution of 8 October 2020 on the European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward, EOS and CEI-Bois call for an ambitious, independent and self-standing EU Forest Strategy for the post-2020 period in parallel with other relevant sectoral strategies.

The 2013 Forest Strategy was built on 8 different priority areas that addressed all three pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) in a balanced way; this approach should be maintained also in the new Strategy. The new EU forests strategy should support Members States in maintaining healthy forests and, at the same time, boost the competitiveness of forest-based industries. Research programs dedicated to the forestry sector should be also a key component of the new Strategy; in particular understanding and quantify the forest vulnerability to forest disturbances is a crucial factor to first develop adaptation strategy and secondly to support the forest based industries to continue to operate.

Threats and challenges for EU forests

European forests play a key role in Europe's transition to a modern, climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy. As shown in the State of European Forests 2020 report, **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** in Europe provides adequate instruments to ensure that forests fulfil environmental, social and economic functions: the **area of forests** in Europe has **increased by 9%** over the last 30 years; the **volume of wood and the weight of carbon stored** in the biomass of European forests have **grown by 50%** over the last 30 years as forest area expanded and only a part of the net annual increment (around 75%) is being harvested. The **volume of wood supply has grown**, reaching **550 million m³**, which is 40% more than in 1990¹. This implies the possibility to both develop the forest-based industries and at the same time maintain or increase our European forests resources, provided that adequate climate change adaptation policies are in place.

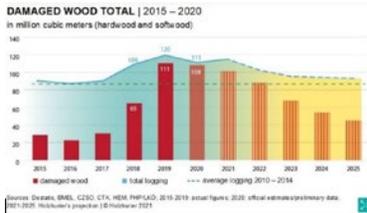
Simultaneously, concerns are legitimately raised over the deterioration of the condition of EU forests, shown for example by the increase of mean foliage loss of trees. The European assessment of forest ecosystems shows that both in the short term and in the long term, the largest number of indicators suggesting degradation falls within the category of climate change indicators (e.g., area burnt by forest fires, effective annual rainfall, mean annual temperature, extreme drought events)². Pest attack also

¹ FOREST EUROPE, 2020: State of Europe's Forests 2020

² JRC Report "Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services: An EU ecosystem assessment", 2020



increased in the recent years; the figure below shows the exceptional magnitude of the damage provoked by the bark beetle outbreak in Europe:



This trend is expected to worsen with climate change. According to a recent study³ 33.4 billion tonnes of forest biomass could be seriously affected by disturbances, with higher relative losses when exposed to windthrows (40%) and fires (34%) compared to insect outbreaks (26%).

- ➔ It is therefore urgent to increase the support to sustainable forest management to increase the resilience and long-term stability of European forests and related ecosystem services. This should be the overarching objective of the new Forest Strategy.
- ➔ The spread of the beetle in spruce-dominated forests is a great challenge for Europe. An EU forest resource monitoring system aiming at providing real-time information on the European forest resources, materials flows, stocks and capable to make forecast should be created. The wood processing industry needs information about the wood resource with a time horizon long enough to forecast possible changes in technology investment and products design. This tool should purely address the wood resource and flow and should not serve at regulating timber markets in Member States.

The role of the wood industry in SFM and climate change mitigation

While one might not connect healthy forests with the commercial use of wood, they are actually connected. Income from wood is essential for forest owners to invest in sustainable forest management and enhance their resilience. In turn, ensuring a sustainable wood supply enables the **transition to a circular bioeconomy**. Wood is renewable, recyclable, has a low carbon footprint over its life-cycle, and is an ally against climate change.

The total positive climate effect of the forest-based sector is estimated at **-806 million tons of carbon dioxide** equivalents annually (EU27+UK, Switzerland and Norway)⁴. This corresponds to around 20% of all fossil emissions in the European Union. This is calculated as a sum of:

- **net sink** (increased carbon storage) in forests and **storage** in forest products;
- fossil emissions caused in the forest sector value chain;
- **prevented fossil emissions** by substituting fossil-based materials and fossil energy, which appears to be as relevant as the forest sink.

³Forzieri, G., Girardello, M., Ceccherini, G. et al. Emergent vulnerability to climate-driven disturbances in European forests. Nat Commun 12, 1081 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-21399-7>
⁴Climate effects of the forest-based sector in the European Union, Peter Holmgren FutureVistas AB. 2020 https://www.cepi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Cepi_study.pdf

Such development has the potential to decarbonise key sectors of the European economy. Carbon saving figures for the use of wood in construction can be substantial: for instance, in the Netherlands it was calculated that scaling up the building sector with 10.000 timber houses could alleviate 10-42% of the total CO₂ emissions produced by the building sector⁵.

- ➔ **The new Forest Strategy should recognize that the full climate mitigation potential of the forest sector is best achieved when (a) forests are growing fast through active and sustainable forest management and (b) renewable and recyclable wood-based products replace products made of fossil-based raw materials. It should enhance the three functions of forests: carbon sink carbon stock, and the substitution effect of forest products for functionally equivalent materials.**
- ➔ **In the framework of the revision of the LULUCF Regulation a mechanism should be put in place to fully recognise the carbon capture of wood products and the material substitution effect.**

Integrating timber production with biodiversity protection

The EU hosts a broad variety of forest ecosystem types; around 27% of the total forest area is protected under the Natura 2000 scheme, and forest ecosystems make up 50% of the entire Natura 2000 network. Encouraging trends are displayed in the latest Forest Europe report: European forests are predominantly semi-natural, with forests plantation representing only 3.8% of the total. The tree species diversity of forest stands has been increasing since 2005: today only one third of Europe's forests are dominated by a single species (usually conifer); half of the forest stands are composed by two to three species. Forests composed of several tree species are often richer in biodiversity and more resilient. The amount of deadwood in European forests is also growing⁶.

In the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 further targets are set: namely the Strict protection of 10% of EU land, including all remaining primary and old-growth forests, and protection of 30% of land; guidelines on "close-to-nature" forestry practices are expected to be developed at EU level. Preliminary assessments show that the impact of an implementation of the EU Biodiversity strategy on the roundwood supply in the EU could be as high as a 42% reduction up to 2050, driving higher imports from non-EU countries⁷.

- ➔ **Sustainable Forest Management ensures that the conservation of biodiversity is encompassed within management activities according to local conditions. The Industry calls for addressing knowledge gaps on which mixtures of trees species can provide the best resistance and stability to climate change while preserving biodiversity without negatively affecting the quality and quantity of wood production.**
- ➔ **The identification of additional protected areas should be based on participatory planning, also taking into consideration the principle of subsidiarity and the competence of Member states on forest policy and regional differences.**

Forest-based circular economy and rural development

⁵ <https://www.w-e.nl/portfolio-item/200-000-ton-minder-co2-uitstoot-meer-houten-woningen>

⁶ FOREST EUROPE, 2020: State of Europe's Forests 2020

⁷ Assessment of possible leakage effects of implementing EU COM proposals for the EU Biodiversity Strategy on forestry and forests in non-EU countries. Thünen Working Paper, No. 159. 2020



Too narrow policy would hinder the forest-based sector's possibility to contribute to the European Green Deal and to rural development. Including the furniture sector, the total production value of the woodworking industries in the EU, according to Eurostat, reached 240 billion EUR in 2018. The woodworking industries employ over 2 million people in over 300,000 companies across Europe. The forest-based sector as a whole represents around 420.000 enterprises for a total turnover of over 520 billion euros and around 3,5 million workers.

Moreover, the forest-based industries are supplied primarily from European forests, as import reliance for industrial roundwood was 5.6 % in 2015 and has been below 10% in the last 15 years⁸. From the point of view of supply security, this gives the industry a special position. In a more polarised world, the forest-based sector provides supply for production of both current and future products and materials that can replace materials with less security of supply.

The forest-based value chain already offers a positive example of circular bioeconomy in action: - European timber processing and wood products manufacturing generates low to zero waste, as resulting by-products and residues can be used as raw material for other wood-based products and renewable energy source. Timber products are not only long-lasting, but can be easily repaired, repurposed or recycled, thus prolonging the carbon storage effect.

- ➔ The industry calls for a new Strategy that recognises the role of the forest-based circular bioeconomy in the creation of additional green jobs and growth in rural and urban areas.
- ➔ Primary residues and by-products (like chips and sawdust) and post-consumer wood represent an important part of wood consumption in the EU that will grow in the future. Industries which are responsible for the first transformation of raw-materials and for the provision of vast quantities of by-products are essential suppliers of materials to develop new bio-based products. The forest-based value chain as a whole should be seen as strategic to achieve the Green Deal objectives.
- ➔ When trees are sustainably harvested, wood continues to store carbon in the thousands of products we use every day, from lumber to paper products, to wood-based panels. Measures to boost the supply of secondary raw materials should be encouraged. Where economically and logistically viable, recovered waste such as post-consumer wood should ideally re-enter the supply chain.

The [European Confederation of Woodworking Industries](#) (CEI-Bois) is an umbrella organisation of 21 European and national organisations from 15 countries backing the interests of the whole wood sector.

The [European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry](#) (EOS) represents 35,000 sawmills in 12 countries.

⁸ Source: European Commission, EIP on Raw Materials, Raw Materials Scoreboard 2018

After the leak of the upcoming draft EU Forest Strategy post-2020, FTP and 13 other organizations sent a joint statement to the European Commission to express their concerns.

The views expressed by the sector over the last months have not been taken into consideration in the draft. In addition, the calls from the European Parliament and Council regarding the new Forest Strategy appear to have been overlooked.

The organizations urgently call on the European Commission to seriously take into consideration the opinion of the forest and forest-based sector and make significant changes to the draft. Continuing to ignore the views of our sector risks provoking a disruption of the EU's entire forest and forest-based sector and completely disregarding the need for motivation and endorsement of the millions of people who “make it happen” on the ground. This would result in a failure in the implementation of the Strategy.

The organizations state that “the new Forest Strategy must create a balance between the various functions which

deliver all ecosystem services, including supporting the entire forest-based value chain to remain competitive and continue to contribute to a greener economy.”

Furthermore, using the existing Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SIRA 2030) of the European forest-based sector as starting point when proposing any future research an innovation activities is essential.

Five attention points were raised by the sector:

1. **Data about the state of forests should be complete and properly utilised**
2. **Sustainable Forest Management and multifunctionality should continue to be the main principles of the new strategy**
3. **The bioeconomy should be more than long-lived wood products and should rely on an integrated value chain**
4. **Support foreseen for forest owners and managers should be comprehensive**
5. **A thorough assessment should be undertaken prior to developing any new forest certification scheme**

Signatories of the joint letter, dated 23 June 2021 are:



Copy of the joint statement can be downloaded [here](https://www.forestplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Joint-Statement_Draft-new-EU-Forest-Strategy-time-to-really-consider-the-opinion-of-EU-forest-and-forest-based-sector-003.pdf).³

3 https://www.forestplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Joint-Statement_Draft-new-EU-Forest-Strategy-time-to-really-consider-the-opinion-of-EU-forest-and-forest-based-sector-003.pdf

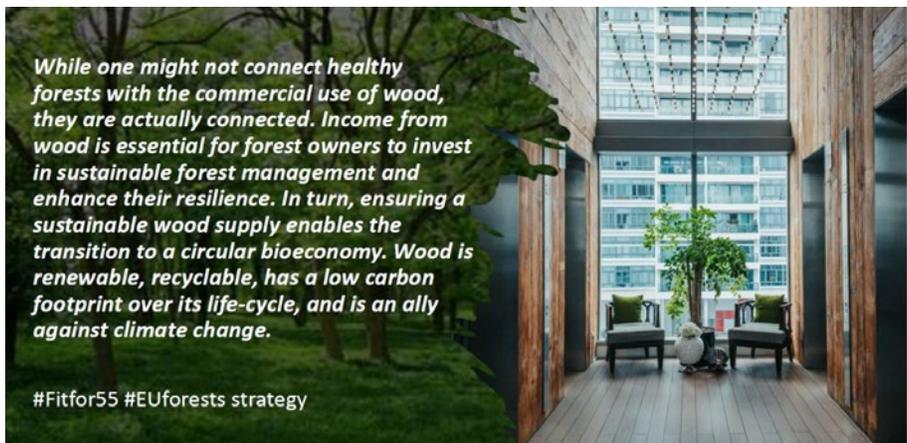
ADOPTION OF THE EU FOREST STRATEGY FOR 2030

On the 16 July, the European Commission adopted the [New EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#), a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal that builds on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The strategy contributes to the package of measures proposed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality in 2050

in the EU. It also helps the EU deliver on its commitment to enhance carbon removals by natural sinks as per the Climate Law.

Reported below and in a nutshell the most relevant information of the EU Forest Strategy. Additionally CEI-Bois prepared some visual to be used on social media in order to emphasise the the positive points of the EU Forest Strategy in correlation with the Wood Industries' main messages.



EU Forest Strategy key information in a nutshell:

1. **WOOD USE:** the strategy aims to deploy sustainably-produced and long-lived wood products for carbon removal, especially in the construction sector (focus on using more low-grade wood and hardwood species), and short-lived ones to replace fossil-based alternatives or for energy production. Emphasis on the cascading use of wood particularly for the bioenergy production.
 - ▶ The Commission will develop a 2050 roadmap for reducing whole

life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings, including a review of the construction products regulation and a methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products and other building materials, reflecting the most advanced dynamic life cycle analysis techniques.

2. **FORESTS PROTECTION:** The EC intends to “strictly” protect primary and old-growth forests, restore degraded areas and ensure they are managed sustainably. It includes a roadmap to plant three billion addi-

tional trees “in full respect of ecological principles”.

Additionally:

- ▶ Legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration, including forest ecosystems, by the end of 2021.
- ▶ Identification of additional indicators as well as thresholds or ranges for sustainable forest management, and assess how these could best be used, starting on a voluntary basis, by the Q1 2023.
- ▶ Develop guidelines on biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation, by Q1 2022 and guidelines for

closer-to-nature-forestry practices, by Q2 2022, as well as voluntary closer-to-nature forest management certification scheme, by Q1 2023.

3. **PAYMENT SCHEMES** for forest owners and managers for “alternative ecosystems services” such as “keeping parts of their forests intact”. Additionally, the carbon farming initiative, expected at the end of the 2021, will further promote a new green business model that will reward climate- and environment-friendly practices by land managers, including forest managers and owners, based on the climate benefits they provide.



As the European Commission adopted the [New EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#), CEI-Bois published as well a press release where it welcomed the fact that the new document fully recognizes the role of wood in construction as a key solution to the climate change crisis, although it also shared the opinion of many of its forest industry counterparts on the fact that it lacks a comprehensive approach to forests.



We are a responsible Industry

PRESS RELEASE:

In a welcome move the new EU Forestry Strategy recognizes the role of wood in construction as a key solution to the climate change crisis, but it lacks a comprehensive approach to forests

Brussels, 16 July 2021

The European woodworking industries have been advocating for a long time for an increased recognition of the role of wood-based products to decarbonize key sectors of the economy, such as construction and renovation. The carbon absorbed from the atmosphere is stored in the trees and consequently in the products, and that effect, paired with the substitution of fossil-based and energy-intensive construction materials, can help to drastically reduce the overall carbon footprint of the building stock.

In a welcome and timely move the EU Forest Strategy, published today by the European Commission, acknowledges this key contribution and the role of the woodworking industry in helping to turn the construction sector from a source of greenhouse gas emissions into a carbon sink as set out in the Renovation Wave and the new European Bauhaus initiative and as advocated by Commission President von der Leyen ^{(State of the Union Address} by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary, 16 September 2020)

The Strategy's reference to the considerable potential to increase the percentage of wood products used in construction and

renovation as a replacement for "energy intensive and currently fossil fuel-based materials" is a much appreciated and correct observation.

CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries, specifically welcomes the proposal to establish a standard, robust and transparent methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products and other building materials as an incentive towards sustainable building design and construction choices. Wood-based solutions offer a green construction material that is renewable, recyclable and has a low fossil carbon footprint.

Moreover, the Strategy rightly emphasizes the need to develop skills and empower people to successfully engage with the growth of a sustainable forest-based bio-economy that already today benefits both rural and urban areas in Europe.

At the same time, the industry expresses concerns on the overall approach of the Strategy, which may ultimately hinder the contribution of the forest-based sector as a whole to the transition to a competitive and climate-neutral economy. The Strategy lacks a comprehensive view of forests and the forest-based sector, as it over-

looks the concept of sustainable forest management as a solution to balance economic, social and environmental aspects and to preserve the multifunctional role of forests by putting too much emphasis on the passive protection of forest areas. Sustainable and active management by using suitable and variable forest management methods is needed to counteract the increasing disturbances induced by climate change, such as fires, droughts and storms as well as pest and disease outbreaks, while increasing the amount of carbon stored and providing raw materials for the bioeconomy development.

Considering that the involvement of all the forest-based sector stakeholders is

essential in achieving the common objective of ensuring the European forests remain healthy, resilient and productive now and in the future, CEI-Bois calls on the Commission to fully include the woodworking industry in the forest governance framework set up at the EU level, including through the work of the Expert Group on Forest-based Industries.

Competitive woodworking industries and sustainably managed forests are heavily interlinked: both are needed to maximise the contribution of the sector towards climate neutrality, and the concerns from the forest-based sector should be heard if the EU wants to ensure the success of the new Strategy.

European Confederation of Woodworking Industries aisbl

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4.5.2 Position on additional demandside measures to halt deforestation, EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Fitness Check

Between the end of 2020 and during the 2021, the European Commission has intensively discussed the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT fitness check and the new proposed regulation on deforestation-free supply chains in several rounds of debate and platforms.

The European timber industry, represented by CEI Bois (the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries) and ETTF (the European Timber Trade Federation), had on numerous occasions commented on this initiative in several statements. The Commission has announced that the continuation of the discussion and the

publication of the new proposal will be postponed from summer to autumn; the impact assessment study is also not yet available. To translate such a complex issue into new or modified regulations with due consideration of all stakeholders' view is a challenge for all parties involved.

In the joint CEI-Bois and ETTF statements the below listed points are put forward as what the industry considers to be the most important elements that are crucial for achieving the objectives of the planned initiative:

- The FLEGT licence system should be retained, as it is an important incentive for producing countries to continue their work on forest management and strengthen their legal framework. Moreover, it is currently the only green

- lane for the import of timber and timber products within the framework of the EUTR. For imported products from Indonesia, this means a considerable facilitation and is also a significant reduction of bureaucracy compared to due diligence. The complementarity between the two components (EU TR and FLEGT) should be maintained: even before countries start issuing FLEGT licences, the information, the analysis and the systems that VPA-producer countries establish to deliver those licences make meeting due diligence requirements more manageable for importers.
- The FLEGT process increases the awareness on the importance of timber legality and forest governance on both sides: it is valuable and helpful for the due diligence of EU importers and improves the transparency and involvement of civil society organisations in the decision-making processes in origin countries.
 - It is however true that the process leading up to the VPA ratification and FLEGT licensing is generally slow; the negotiation processes should be accelerated as much as possible to come to the signature of several partnership agreements in the medium term. EU support to the process (e.g., by knowledge transfer from successful VPAs Countries, lessons sharing) should be boosted.
 - The FLEGT system aims to ensure legality and traceability of timber and timber products but can have a sustainability component that can work in synergy with third-party certification (see for example the case of Indonesia and Cameroon). This component should be further emphasized and promoted.
 - The EUTR should be maintained as it is now, but better implementation is essential: guidance on how to conduct due diligence and clear rules are needed. Rules should be the same for all EU operators.
 - It is to be reminded that most companies in the timber trade sector are small and medium enterprises; it is essential that new regulations do not further aggravate the bureaucratic burden on such companies.
 - We continue to oppose the inclusion of wood in the scope of the planned regulation on deforestation-free supply chains. We believe that timber and timber products are already adequately covered by the existing rules of the EUTR, and that there is no need for further regulation, considering that the primary driver of deforestation is agricultural expansion. Sustainable forest management is in fact a solution for combatting deforestation; associating wood products together with other commodities that can cause forest destruction risks to undermine consumer confidence in the ecological and sustainable values of wood products, including the EU industries.
 - At the same time, a consistent enforcement of the EUTR by EU Member States should be ensured. Different levels of stringency of the controls performed by Competent Authorities lead to an uneven playing field and ultimately undermine the goal of the regulation and distort competition. This is an important point that the industry has raised since the EUTR came into force. The legislator's claim and feasibility in the internal market must be in harmony here.
 - Diplomacy and politics must become more involved in this process. We do

not consider it sufficient to impose the implementation of the ambitious projects on the economy and, in this case, on the timber importers alone. Politics and diplomacy must ensure that the European regulation is met with a high level of acceptance in the supplier countries.

- Finally, it should be noted that, in principle, regulatory measures should not hinder international trade, but rather promote it. In view of the current difficult procurement situation throughout Europe, we believe that imports will become increasingly important in the coming years. To this end, it is crucial that the EU keeps markets open for legal and sustainable timber products.

In the spotlight:

An article by CEI-Bois’ Director of Public Affairs Mr Brannen was featured on the topic of “The European wood-working industries, as pioneers in fighting illegal logging, offer critical perspectives on combatting deforestation driven by imported commodities” on Revolve on the 16 of February 2021



Forests are our best allies in mitigating climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere: together with oceans, they act as reservoirs, storing carbon for decades and even centuries in trees and long-lived wood products. It is little wonder that deforestation is a key environmental concern worldwide, being a very serious driver of CO₂ emissions and habitat loss. As stated by Commission President Von Der Leyen in the recent “One Planet” summit on biodiversity, the EU is firm in the commitment to ensure that the single market does not drive deforestation in other parts of the world via the import of deforestation-linked commodities.

One has to remember that the primary driver of deforestation is land use change:

as populations grow and economies develop, forest land is being cleared for conversion to food agriculture and other crops, mining activities, urban and infrastructure development (source: FAO). Timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests are not linked to global deforestation; on the contrary, deforestation prevents the future availability of wood material, whereas forests sustainably managed and with long-term economic value stay as forests.

The European Woodworking Industries have been pioneers in fighting illegal logging and improving the legality of the production and sale of sustainable timber.



4.5.3 EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives

In the framework of the ongoing EU Parliament discussions related to the “EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives”, at the end of May 2021, CEI-Bois was invited by the forest owners representatives to endorse a joint paper together with other organizations namely, Bioenergy, Ceetar, ELO, FECOF, FTP, UEF, USSE, European Panel Federation, FEP, FSC, PEFC.

The EP Report was causing a lot of discussion in the Parliament, hence the content of the compromise amendments is changing from day to day. Therefore, the joint paper only concentrated on flagging the issues of the highest importance. The plan was to distribute this document to all political groups in the EU Parliament at the latest by 26 May. (“Vote on amendments and adoption of draft report on 28 May, EP ENVI Committee).

In a nutshell, with the joint paper, the *“European forest and forest-based sector generally welcomes the efforts by the European*



Parliament to develop a Report on the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 as one of the paths towards the EU Green Deal and the Global Biodiversity Framework by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). We strongly believe that to fulfil their purpose, the EP proposals enshrined within the Report need to build on sound scientific knowledge and verifiable facts, as well as on the practical experience of forest managers. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 objectives and targets should be ambitious but realistic and feasible. Otherwise, their implementation may bring adverse results."

4.6 Social Affairs

As stated in the European Commission Political Guidelines for 2019-2024, “A Union that strives for more”, one of the main priorities points is **“An economy that works for people”**, with a focus on a Europe which strives for more when it comes to social fairness and prosperity. President Von der Leyen’s Commission has unveiled EU’s joint commitment for a strong social Europe and a fair, inclusive and resilient recovery. In March, the Commission put forward an Action Plan to further implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and address the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, as well as more long-term demographic, societal and technological challenges.

In line with the EC commitment, during the first half of 2021, Portugal took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union adopting the following motto **‘Time to deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery’**. Portugal’s focus was set on five big thematic areas: resilient Europe, social Europe, green Europe, digital Europe, global Europe. The social agenda came on top of the priorities, as the main pillar of the European response to the COVID-19.

The three major Presidency priorities were:

- To promote Europe’s recovery, leveraged by the climate and digital transitions;
- To implement the Social Pillar of the European Union as a key element for ensuring a fair and inclusive climate and digital transition;
- To strengthen Europe’s strategic autonomy keeping it open to the world.

On the agenda were the promotion and debate on empowering citizens for the digital challenge, on the future of work and decent work, adequate minimum wages, and on developing the qualifications and skills appropriate for a modern, digital economy.

Focus on the negotiation of the Directive on adequate minimum wages and the discussion of the importance of strengthening social dialogue and collective bargaining.

4.6.1 EU Action and Developments in the field of Social Affairs monitored by CEI-Bois

A. Publication of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

The European Commission published on the 4th of March 2021 [the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) which outlines concrete actions to further implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a joint effort by the Member States and the EU, with an active involvement of social partners and civil society.

Within the framework of the Action Plan the Commission proposes three EU headline targets to be achieved by the end of the decade in the areas of employment, skills, and social protection, consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- **At least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment:** *in order to achieve this overall goal, Europe must strive to: at least halve the gender employment gap compared to 2019; increase the provision of formal early childhood education and care (ECEC), thus contributing to better reconciliation between professional and private life and supporting stronger female labour market participation; and decrease the rate of young people neither in employment, nor in education or training aged 15–29 from 12.6% to 9%.*
- **At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year:** *increasing adult participation in training to 60% to improve employability, boost innovation, ensure social fairness and close the digital skills gap. A key factor of success is to ensure that adults are able to engage in up- and reskilling later in life. At least 80% of those aged 16-74 should have basic digital skills, a precondition for inclusion and participation in the labour market and society in a digitally transformed Europe and early school leaving should be further reduced and participation in upper secondary education increased.*

- **The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million** *(out of these 15 million people at least 5 million should be children)*

This commitment was confirmed at the first day of the Social Summit in Porto on the 6 of May 2021 by the President of the European Commission, the President of the European Parliament, the Portuguese Prime Minister currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European social partners and civil society organisations.

The Commission called on the Member States to define their own national targets, as a contribution to this common endeavour. Member States are encouraged to make full use of the EU funds available to support reforms and investments in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights. Alongside public resources, the development of sustainable finance also has a key role to play in mobilising the necessary private resources to deliver on sustainable objectives - the EU has been mobilising private investment in the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, and circular EU.

As a key monitoring tool used in the European Semester, these new targets will be supported by the revision of the **Social Scoreboard which will track Member States' trends and performances, enabling the Commission to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Social Pillar principles.** Member States will be invited to report regularly in their National Reform Programmes on

implementation and on policy initiatives envisaged to close the gaps. The timeliness of social statistics will also be improved further, following the recently adopted Regulation on the Integrated European Social Statistics together with early estimates of poverty and inequality.

The Commission will review the Action Plan in 2025. The review will provide a basis for further actions at EU level with a view to achieving the 2030 EU targets.

The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights will guide towards a strong Social Europe and set the vision for a new 'social rulebook'. The Pillar is structured around three chapters: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market; Fair working conditions & Social protection and inclusion.

B. Proposal for an Adequate Minimum Wage in the EU

Monthly minimum wages vary widely across the EU in 2020, ranging from €312 in Bulgaria to €2,142 in Luxembourg. One of the major factors for the wide range is the difference in the costs of living in EU countries.

There are two forms of minimum wages in EU countries:

- **Statutory minimum wages:** they are regulated by statutes or formal laws. Most member states have such rules.
- **Collectively agreed minimum wages:** in six EU countries, wages are determined through collective agreements between trade unions and employers, including in cer-

tain cases minimum wages: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Italy, and Sweden.

The Covid-19 crisis further supported the idea for fair minimum wages in the European Union. Many of the pandemic's frontline workers earn only minimum wages, such as carers, healthcare workers, childcare workers and cleaners.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights in November 2017, setting out the EU's commitment to fair wages. In October 2019, the Parliament adopted a resolution, calling on the Commission to propose a legal instrument for fair minimum wages in the EU. In a report adopted in December 2020, Parliament underlined that the directive on fair wages should contribute to eliminating in-work poverty and promote collective bargaining.

On 28 October 2020, the Commission submitted a proposal for a [Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union](#). The legal basis for the Proposal is Article 153(2) TFEU, in conjunction with Article 153(1)(b) TFEU. The proposal is meant to not only protect workers in the EU, but also help to close the gender pay gap, strengthen incentives to work and create a level playing field in the Single Market.

The proposal takes into account national competences and social partners' contractual freedom and does not set the level of minimum wages.

The directive wants to promote collective bargaining on wages in all EU countries. For countries with statutory minimum wages, it aims to ensure that the minimum wages are set at adequate levels, while taking into account socio-economic conditions as well as regional and sectoral differences.

Parliament's employment committee is working on the Commission's proposal; committees' decision is expected in November 2021.

- CEI-Bois provided its written contribution to both the first and second phase consultation of the Social Partners under Article 154 TFEU on a possible action addressing the challenges related to fair minimum wages. While CEI-Bois does not see the need for EU action on minimum wages it underlined that the focus of the EU must be on how to enable a safe and rapid re-launch of economic activity, with a view to securing sustainable growth and competitiveness, safeguarding employment and creating new job opportunities.

C. Report on strengthening EU social dialogue by Ms Andrea Nahles, Special Advisor on Social Dialogue to Nicolas Schmit (Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights) and the Review of the EU sectoral social dialogue: consultation of social partners

Ms Andrea Nahles was appointed in July 2020 and asked to provide this report to highlight the main issues at stake and propose a set of recommendations and initiatives on how to achieve the strengthening and promotion of social dialogue and collective bargaining. Her report was officially published on the 2nd of February 2021.

This work was closely linked with the preparatory work on the Action Plan on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights presented by the Commission in March and endorsed on 7-8 May 2021 at the social summit of the Heads of State and Government of the EU Member States under the Portuguese presidency. The report is an important contribution to building a stronger social Europe by enhancing social convergence.

The following topics are highlighted as of particular interest to social partners in the report:

- Improving cross-industry and sectoral social dialogue structures (at European and national level);
- Improving transparency as regards the results of collective agreements and their application;
- Implementing and enforcing existing rules better and ensuring that tripartite consultation structures work efficiently;
- Boosting support for capacity building to improve the representativeness of social partners, particularly against the background of the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Fostering a better culture of social dialogue at national level, particularly among the new generation of future social partner leaders;
- Raising the profile of social dialogue, fostering awareness raising, and promoting the value of social dialogue.

As announced in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (*adopted on 4 March 2021* the review of the EU sectoral social dialogue which is part of the initiative to support social dialogue at the

EU and national level will be presented in 2022 and preceded by consultation of social partners in 2021.

The review aims to support the EU sectoral social dialogue to better embrace challenges in the world of work, such as digitalisation and new forms of work.

- ▶ CEI-Bois has been contacted by the European Commission to give its views and ideas on the review of sectoral social dialogue as a first step in the consultation process. CEI-Bois' written contribution was coordinated by the SAWG and sent back.

D. New EU Strategic Framework on occupational safety and health (OSH) 2021-2027

The Commission published the new EU Strategic Framework on occupational safety and health (OSH) 2021-2027 on the 28 of June 2021.

- ▶ Prior to the publication the EC organised a Social Partner hearing on EU OSH Strategic Framework 2021-2027 to which CEI-Bois contributed with written input coordinated within its Social Affairs Working Group.

General Overview: The strategic framework recognises that the EU and national regulatory systems on OSH are well advanced and that, in com-

bination with the tripartite approach, this has led to significant progress in OSH over the last decades.

The document states that although the priorities of the previous framework remain relevant today further OSH action in the EU is needed to make the workplaces fit for the increasingly rapid changes in the economy, demography, work patterns, and society at large.

The concept of workplace is becoming more fluid but also more complex as new organizational forms, business models and industries are emerging. The COVID19 pandemic has accentuated these complexities and made OSH and public health policy more inter-related than ever before.

The strategic framework focuses on three crosscutting key objectives for the coming years:

1. anticipating and managing change in the new world of work brought about by the green, digital and demographic transitions;
2. improving prevention of workplace accidents and illnesses;
3. increasing preparedness for any potential future health crises.

To deliver on these objectives, action is needed at EU, national, sectoral, and company level. The implementation of these three objectives will be underpinned by: social dialogue;

strengthening of the evidence base;
strengthening of enforcement;
awareness raising; and funding.

In 2023 an OSH summit is planned, gathering the EU institutions, Member States, social partners, the EU-OSHA and other relevant stakeholders, to draw the first lessons learned and recommend any necessary redirection of this strategy.

E. 2021 report on Employment and Social Developments in Europe

The European Commission published on the 6 of July the 2021 edition of the Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review. The review is prepared by the Directorate-General of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion provides up-to-date economic analysis of employment and social trends in Europe and discusses related policy options.

The main findings of this years' ESDE review are as follows:

- **The geographical impact of the COVID-19 crisis has been uneven and may widen regional inequalities that already existed before the pandemic.** Job losses were five times greater in rural areas than in cities. Across EU Member States, the Mediterranean regions were the most affected by job losses, also linked to a greater share of people working in tourism.
- The regions that proved to be more resilient to the shock of COVID-19 tend to share characteristics such

as **high regional productivity, high level of skilled population levels, big investment in research and development, quality local public institutions and solid digital infrastructure.** Overall, **well-performing labour markets** proved to be better protected against the economic downturn.

- **Employment grew in jobs that are critical, can be carried out from home and require low social interaction.**
- **The impact of the crisis on national social dialogue and collective bargaining varied across EU countries.** Countries with strong social dialogue institutions favoured the early involvement of social partners in designing and deploying response measures such as short-time work schemes.
- The decline in the EU employment rate was slightly higher for men than for women. **However, the effect of the crisis on gender inequalities depends on various dimensions, and the pandemic highlighted long-standing gender inequalities.** Women continued to take on the largest share of caring responsibilities, and faced challenges in balancing work and private life.
- **Teleworkers** are satisfied with working from home when they receive the IT and other equipment they need to do their work, when they do not have to work considerably longer hours and when work does not interfere with family time.



27 of April 2021, Brussels

Declaration on Healthy and Safe Workplaces

Together we state our continual commitment to policy and practices for healthy and safe workplaces. Work should promote employee safety, growth, and goal attainment. Results are achieved when trade unions and employers cooperate on common objectives on occupational health and safety towards safer workplaces and where risks of occupational diseases and accidents are addressed.

The human right to “safe and healthy working conditions” is recognized in the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The collective and shared commitment on occupational health and safety is also strongly reverberated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Over the years since the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in 1998, safety and health have become even more elemental for both trade unions and employers. Dealing with the health and safety risks of the COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent example.

We are committed to support the recognition of healthy and safe workplaces as a fundamental right by the International Labour Organization (ILO). A global consensus for such a change will encourage the application of good occupational health and safety standards and discourage any actions seeking competitive advantage based on substandard conditions and practices.

Healthy and safe workplaces are vital.

Sampsa AUVINEN
Chairman of CEI-Bois

Johan Lindholm
President of EFBWW



European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers



About the signatories:

The [European Federation of Building and Woodworkers \(EFBWW\)](#) is the European Trade Union Federation grouping 76 national free trade unions from 34 countries with members in the building, building materials, woodworking, forestry and allied industries and trades.

The [European Confederation of Woodworking Industries](#) represents 22 European and National organisations from 16 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector: more than 180,000 companies generating an annual turnover of 152 billion euros and employing 1 million workers in the EU.

4.6.2 CEI-Bois' Social Affairs WG and Sector Social Dialogue Activities

In 2021 CEI-Bois held its regular 3 Sector Social Dialogue Committee meetings. There is a good collaboration in place with the trade union counterparts from EFB-WW (the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers) and some concrete outcomes were noted:

A. Joint Declaration on Healthy and Safe workplaces

This declaration was published on the 27 of April 2021 on the occasion of the workers memorial day (28 April 2021) and also presented at our Social Dialogue Wood Plenary meeting on 6 May 2021.

The intention of this document is to show our Industry's continual commitment to policy and practices for healthy and safe workplaces but also our good collaboration and relation with the Trade Unions.

B. Joint CEI-Bois and EFBWW position paper on the Renovation Wave

This position paper has been agreed by our Social Affairs WG and officially adopted by both parties on the occasion of the Social Dialogue Woodworking Plenary online meeting on the 6 of May 2021.

The Social Partners jointly state our position in favour of a Renovation Wave that accompanies and supports the Green and Digital transformations by delivering in Europe equal access to working opportunities, education, training, fair income, safety in the workplace and social protection for families while increasing productivity,

competitiveness of European Industry, reducing energy poverty and fostering innovation in the construction sector.

The Social Partners are committed to build back better following the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting solutions for better and healthier living spaces for the people that occupy buildings as well as the surrounding environment. Decoupling economic growth from emissions is possible, particularly in the construction sector where the use of sustainable products, such as wood, wood components, straw and clay or hemp fibres as building material outweigh other products when looking at the complete environmental impact and performance, especially when considering the whole life carbon impact.

Mainly the paper is tree fold, it focuses on the climate benefits of wood, the wellbeing and health benefits of wood as well as on the social benefits of our sector by creating green and safe jobs. The joint paper also links the prominent role wood can play in the Renovation Wave to other EU initiatives such as the New European Bauhaus and the Affordable Housing Initiative.

Full position paper available [here](#)⁴.

C. CEI-Bois' activities were boosted by its new Social Affairs Chairman

CEI-Bois' Social Affairs WG Chair Mr David Johnsson was invited as speaker in a number of important events, such as his invitation to participate in the panel discussion on the second day of the joint EFBWW-ETUI workshop on the future

4 https://f15e48fb-651f-4f51-bf48-c1e0302f673f.filesusr.com/ugd/5b1bdc_6ec7af67630047b6a176f66b-c152d464.pdf

of work in the construction and wood sectors that took place on the 25 & 26 of March 2021; The aim of the workshop was to discuss trade union strategies and policies to cope with the changing working environment for our workers, inter alia digitalisation, new skills, new production methods, new materials.

CEI-Bois' Social Affairs WG Chairman Mr David Johnson opened the final conference of the Erasmus+ project "Skills for the Baltic Wood industry – European Quality in Vocational Education and Training/Skilled-Up" on the 16th of September 2021.

The skilled up projects aims to:

- Strengthen the cooperation between VET institutions and industry representatives
- Improve the competitiveness and quality of VET institutions by introducing a WBL programme for internationally recognized qualification in line with EU quality instruments
- Improve the skills and provide a clear strategy and instruments to address skills shortages in the wood processing sector
- Foster economic development and innovation of wood processing sector by preparing specialists corresponding to labour market needs
- Invest in enhancement of understanding - digital technologies, mobility, competitiveness and zero-waste production are drivers of changes



The "Skilled-Up" final conference took place live at "Pullman Hotel Rīga" and online on Youtube channel of German - Baltic Chamber of Commerce (AHK). Mr Johnsson attended online and made an opening presentation on the Overview of the European Woodworking Industry: employment, challenges and opportunities.

In his opening presentation Mr Johnsson emphasised some of the opportunities for the woodworking industries in the context of the EU Green Deal & Renovation Wave, such as the rising global awareness of climate change and the increased use of Wood as a natural solution for reducing emissions in the Construction sector and building greener societies, but he also highlighted some of the challenges the WI is facing such as: an ageing workforce, lack of skills, difficulties with recruitment (young people reluctant to enter this sector, too few school which are producing to few students...).

The event was followed by the presentations about internationalization of vocational education training, development of EQF level 5 training programs in Europe and Baltic States and "Skilled-Up" project results. Afterwards stakeholders discussed development of similar projects in other industries and signed the letter of intent to cooperate in the future.

In the spotlight:

In addition, CEI-Bois re-joined the European Employers Network (EEN) in 2021:

EEN is a voluntary forum/network where all events are coordinated by Business Europe. For CEI-Bois it is



important to be part as it brings us to this inner circle of employers, help share and exchange information on important Social developments, brings us closer to Business Europe, and improves our chance to be included in Cross sector EU consultations and hearings and be heard.

The objectives of E.E.N. are concerned with European Social Policy matters and are as follows:

- To provide a forum in which exchanges of views and information on social policy can take place between European employers' organisations in a timely manner.
- To promote the convergence of views and positions on social policy expressed by European employers' organisations on behalf of their affiliates, in order to enhance their ability to make strong representations to the EU Institutions, European Trade Unions and other relevant European stakeholders.

- To ensure that diverging views and positions on social policy, if any, expressed by European employers' organisations on behalf of their affiliates are based on specific reasons which have been communicated and not just a consequence of a lack or insufficient communication among employers' organisations.
- To avoid duplication and overlapping of work, actions, positions and agreements at European level.

D. Ongoing Woodworking and Furniture representativeness studies

Eurofound is in charge of conducting two representativeness studies for the woodworking & furniture sectors respectively. The study will be conducted between 2021 and 2023 with the estimated planning with consultation on the 1st draft in 2022 and final publication on the on Eurofound website 1sthalf 2023. CEI-Bois fully collaborated with Eurofound providing them with the necessary information and the contact details of its members.

4.7 TRADE

4.7.1 Brexit

On the 24 December 2020 the European Commission reached an agreement with the United Kingdom on the terms of its cooperation with the European Union from January 2021 onwards. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement was signed on 30 December 2020, was applied provisionally as of 1 January 2021 and entered into force on 1 May 2021.

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement consists of three main pillars:

1. A Free Trade Agreement

The agreement covers not just trade in goods and services, but also a broad range of other areas such as investment, competition, State aid, tax transparency, air and road transport, energy and sustainability, fisheries, data protection, and social security coordination.

It provides for zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin.

Both parties have committed to ensuring a robust level playing field by maintaining high levels of protection in areas such as environmental protection, the fight against climate change and carbon pricing, social and labour rights, tax transparency and State aid, with a binding dispute settlement mechanism and the possibility for both parties to take remedial measures. Finally, the agreement enables the UK's continued participation in a number of flagship EU programmes

for the period 2021-2027 (subject to a financial contribution by the UK to the EU budget), such as Horizon Europe.

2. A new partnership for our citizens' security

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement establishes a new framework for law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal and civil law matters. It recognises the need for strong cooperation between national police and judicial authorities, in particular for fighting and prosecuting cross-border crime and terrorism.

3. A horizontal agreement on Governance

To give maximum legal certainty to businesses, consumers and citizens, a dedicated chapter on governance provides clarity on how the agreement will be operated and controlled. It also establishes a Joint Partnership Council, who will make sure the Agreement is properly applied and interpreted, and in which all arising issues will be discussed. Binding enforcement and dispute settlement mechanisms will ensure that rights of businesses, consumers and individuals are respected. Both parties can engage in cross-sector retaliation in case of violations of the agreement. This cross-sector retaliation applies to all areas of the economic partnership. Foreign policy, external security and defence cooperation is not covered by the Agreement.

Notwithstanding the Agreement, **the UK left the EU Single Market and Customs Union, as well as all EU policies and international agreements on the 1st of January.** The EU and the UK will form two separate markets and two distinct regulatory and legal spaces. The Withdrawal Agreement and the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland also came into effect on the 1 January.

The implications of such change for the EU woodworking industries (e.g. on EU TR, FLEGT, CE Marking) have been covered by a webinar organised by CEI-Bois' UK member the European Timber Trade Federation (TTF).

4.7.2 Stock taking of Civil Dialogue Groups – Invitation to an exchange of views on UK agreement

CEI-Bois attended the “*Stock taking of Civil Dialogue Groups – Invitation to an exchange of views*” took place on the 7 of January 2021. This meeting was initially scheduled to take place in December 2020 but had to be postponed twice because the negotiations with the UK were still ongoing. It is a stock taking meeting regarding the future relations with the UK.

On the 24 of December 2020 a Cooperation and Trade agreement was found, which was the point of interest in the meeting. On the 1st of January 2021 the UK left the custom and single market union.

Here reported the key information provided during the meeting.

On the Trade and Cooperation Agreement in general:

- The Trade and Cooperation Agreement includes all economic sectors as well as security cooperation. The only exception to this is the use of nuclear safety; all the rest is part of a single agreement, including the fishery issue.
- What the Agreement does not do is replicate the membership benefit. There are important changes: the UK is a separate market from the single market and a separate legal order, outside the common EU supervision; this will make a big difference in terms of trade between the UK and EU.
- The single market has been protected by making sure that **all UK products coming into the EU market must meet EU standards** in terms of consumer protection, health and safety standards, food safety, food quality standards and all the rest of it in terms of industrial components, finished consumer products or agricultural products. There will be customs formalities.
- What distinguishes this agreement from others is the **speed with which the EU can react in case the UK will violate the competition standards.**

1. Level playing field aspect: outlook on what was managed to be delivered:

- **Non regression in areas of labour, social standards, environment and climate:** The main tool is that neither party can regress below the levels that are achieved at the end of the transition period, in the EU and the UK. Dispute settlement mechanism and remedies are in place in case of regress. The other novel element is the specific

commitment on climate: the UK has agreed not to regress below their levels of climate protection when under the EU; it is an economy-wide commitment to ensure the reduction of GHG emissions, and to maintain a system of carbon pricing, even though the UK will now be outside the EU Emission Trading System.

- **Several novel instruments in terms of unilateral measures, re-balancing measures and safeguard measures:**

- a) Individual subsidies: possibility to react quickly by applying a remedial measure where a subsidy creates a significant negative effect on trade investment between the EU and the UK.
- b) Divergence (of labour and social, environment or climate protections, or of subsidy control systems): possibility to apply rebalancing measures;
- c) The 3rd mechanism also exists under the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland: safeguard measures allow any party to adopt within 30 days a safeguard measures in case of serious economic, environmental or societal difficulties of a sectoral or regional nature. This allows the other party to adopt rebalancing measures in case the application of the safeguard measures creates imbalance between the rights and obligations of the Agreement.

- **Review mechanism is also part of the future proofing:** After 4 years and by a 4 years period there is a possibility see whether the agreement delivers. One party can demand a review and this can lead to a launch of negotiations on the entire FTA and lead to an amended Agreement.

2. WTO TRQ apportionment negotiations: The withdrawal of UK from the EU makes it necessary for the EU to adapt TRQ to the reduced market of EU27 (more information here).
3. Rules of origins: only goods originating from the EU and UK can benefit from this agreement.

The key elements for this part of the agreement:

- a) **EU is allowing EU exporters to self-declare the origin of the product for preferential tariff, and gives a grace period of one year for collecting the documentary evidence for issuing proof of origin.** It is a way of facilitating EU exporters to make the rules of origin statement although they might not have all the supplier information.
 - b) The procedure for verification is not different than in other FTAs.
4. Market situation: no significant impact has been reported on trade volumes or prices (even if the period is not well represented only a few days and stock building took place prior). The impact on the markets has not been as bad as initially suggested. They continue to monitor the situation, consumer behaviour and politics.

4.7.3 Brexit and the change in the UK Timber Regulation

The United Kingdom officially left the European Union as of 31 December and as a result, the UK is no longer part of the EU customs union or single market.

Both parties have agreed to a Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This agreement provides 100% tariff liberalisation,

meaning there will be no tariffs or quotas on the movement of goods we produce between the UK and the EU.

Despite this trade agreement, UK timber importer members still must complete import procedures and due diligence when importing timber from the EU.

From 1 January 2021, the new UK Global Tariff will apply to all imports unless (a) the country or region has a trade deal with the UK, (b) the developing country has GSP status with the UK, or (c) an open Product Quota has been registered with the WTO.

In order to better clarify the changes that Brexit will bring in importing timber products in UK, CEI-Bois and its Member, the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) in collaboration with the Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS), held a webinar to offer the opportunity for EU companies to exchange, learn and ask questions around UKTR on the 28 of May 2021.



The workshop allowed to learn directly from the Competent Authority for UK Timber Regulations on the expectations and requirements for due diligence under UKTR/FLEGT, ask questions as well as to share and exchange one's own experiences so far on exporting to the UK

4.7.4 Ukrainian logs export ban

CEI-Bois is closely monitoring the development on the logs export ban introduced by the Ukrainian Law Nr. 325-VIII (09.04.2015) having regular meeting with DG TRADE. To be recalled, this ban applies to all exports of unprocessed timber.

Background:

In November 2015 the logs export ban introduced by the Ukrainian Law Nr. 325-VIII (09.04.2015) entered into force. There had been some negotiation efforts on the part of the EU Commission and the European Commissioner for Trade Mrs Malmström to prevent this, however they were fruitless.

Thus, the law that temporarily prohibits (10 years) the exportation outside the customs territory of Ukraine of untreated wood from all tree species (except pine) as of November 1, 2015.

The same will apply to pine as well, but later - starting from January 1, 2017. The legislative draft in question stipulates a temporary ban for the following: unprocessed wood including raw wood, such as roundwood in the form of logs, poles etc. with moisture content exceeding 22% and sawn timber with the thickness exceeding 70 mm and moisture content more than 22%.

The law allows exports of those kinds of wood that were not mentioned above, provided that exported wood has the certificate of origin,

with it being issued on the conditions regulated by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

On 11 December 2020 the Arbitration panel established under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA) issued the final report on the case. The ruling found that:

- Ukraine's 2005 export ban is incompatible with Article 35 of the Association Agreement (AA) forbidding export prohibitions, but that it is justified under Article XX(b) of the GATT 1994, (...) as a measure "necessary to protect... plant life", (...); the 2005 export ban is therefore not in breach of Article 35 of the AA.
- The Panel however found that Ukraine's 2015 temporary export ban (the one more relevant to the European sawmill industry) is incompatible with Article 35 of the AA forbidding export prohibition, and that it is not justified under Article XX(g) of the GATT 1994, as made applicable to the Association Agreement by Article 36 of the AA (General Exceptions), because that export ban is not "relating to the conservation of exhaustible resources...made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption."

Expected Next steps:

The ruling states that Ukraine had one month to adopt the necessary measures to comply, which is also what we were told initially. However, DG TRADE explained that the rules of the Association Agreement are more lenient than WTO rules; this means that Ukraine and EU agreed

on a "reasonable period of time" to prove compliance.

Ukraine will have to prove that they took action to comply with the ruling by 27 July 2021. By mid-June 2021 Ukraine will have to send a report describing the remedial measures they are taking.

What are the options for Ukraine to demonstrate compliance?

According to the evaluation of DG TRADE, the first option may be a simple repeal of the existing ban. This in theory would not require a legislative process, as Ukraine may make arrangements to ensure that the ban is not implemented on exports to the EU (please note that the ruling of the arbitration panel does not apply to trade with extra-EU countries).

Or Ukraine may make the ban compliant with Art.XX(g) of GATT. This article stipulates that WTO members may adopt policy measures that are inconsistent with GATT disciplines, but necessary to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources. Under this article, export restriction may be "made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption."

The arbitration panel judged that the measure was unjustified because the cap on domestic consumption imposed in 2018 in Ukraine is far above the national demand for raw timber. Moreover, the absence of restrictions on the production and export of sawn wood confirms that the ban does not aim at forest conservation. If

Ukraine was to restrict also the domestic use of wood even-handedly, they may argue that the ban to export is justified to protect national forest resources. This however seems to be unlikely to happen.

At any rate, if the EU is not happy with the remedial measures taken by July, it may appeal again to the Panel, which will judge the compliance. As a last resort, the EU can impose unilateral retaliation measures – if there is a political willingness to do so. In any case the whole process may be over by the end of 2021 according to the assessment of DG TRADE.

4.7.5 Wood market access barriers in Ukraine and Russia

Russia's proposed log export ban in 2022 will have a far-reaching impact on global forest product markets. It is estimated that Russia exported 15 million m3 of logs in 2020, accounting for almost 12% of globally traded roundwood. Nevertheless, much of this trade may come to a halt in 2022 when a new law proposed by Russia's president will ban the export of softwood logs and high-value hardwood logs in January 2022.

This proposal runs counter to the principles of free trade embedded in WTO rules and it further aggravates the market access problems created by similar measures in Ukraine and Belarus. Moreover, the proposed Russian ban is intended to cut off log supplies to China, which is currently a relevant export location for Russian logs; this may have the consequence of exacerbating the competition over European forest supply and increasing the pressure on European forest resources.

Therefore, it is vital that the EU Commission and the other EU Institutions identify appropriate instruments to oppose trade distortions, while safeguarding European manufacturing industries and taking action regarding log export bans by Russia or any other country. All such bans run counter to the principles of free trade and should be opposed. Likewise stringent export rules are de facto bans and should be regarded as such.

For this reason, CEI-Bois and the other Brussels' based organisation representing the EU forestry Industry met with the Cabinet of the Vice-President and Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis in order to take appropriate actions in order to restore a level-playing field with the EU commercial partners.

Logs are the key raw materials of the forestry value chain. By processing logs the EU industry produces a range of products which keep carbon stored during their lifetime contributing to the decarbonization of the economy in line with the EU climate objectives.

Great concern that a high amount of logs is leaving the EU due to trade-policy decisions made by other countries. We advocate for free and FAIR trade but the **lack of a level-playing field** is apparent. **Present local logs shortages will turn into future EU-wide ones.**

Copy of the joint letter requesting the meeting is here reported.



Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

Executive Vice-President An Economy that Works for People
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200 – 1049 Brussels – Belgium
Brussels, 28 June 2021

Dear Commissioner,

Request for a meeting to discuss the implications of the impending Russian ban on the export of logs

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the material scarcity which may well result as both a direct and indirect consequence of the Russian export ban on logs due to commence in January 2022.

Demand for wood in Europe is high and likely to remain so. While Europe imports a relatively small amount of Russian logs (approximately 170,000 tonnes of softwood logs and almost 3.4 million tonnes of birch logs), other neighbouring countries namely Belarus, Ukraine and Turkey also have log or wood product export bans (or measures having the same effect) so the cumulative direct impact will be an increase in competition for logs in the EU market resulting in an upward pressure on sawlog and timber prices. The pulp and paper industry, especially in Finland, would be also significantly impacted. About 0.5 million cubic meters of coniferous pulpwood were imported to Finland in 2020. It must be also remembered that a few European forest companies have leased forest areas in Russia, from which timber exports to the EU would also cease as a result of the export ban.

The indirect impact is that the Russian ban will cut off supplies to China, the number one export location for Russian logs. China will then be forced to seek alternative sources of this key raw material.

Our concern is that China may well come to Europe to buy logs further exacerbating the existing competition for logs resulting in prices being driven ever higher. There are already signs of this as European shipments of logs to China have been sharply increasing

for a few months. As a consequence all over Europe wood processing companies – often family-owned businesses – are fearful they may be outbid on log prices, threatening the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of Europeans, many in rural areas. Wood-based materials are essential for the European furniture sector.

At the same time we do not think it is an exaggeration to state that the uncontrolled export of logs from Europe will ultimately result in Europe being short of the sustainable wood it needs for use in the built environment to meet its 2050 Net Zero climate goal.

The lock-down on movement necessitated by the Covid pandemic led to many households across Europe investing in Do-It-Yourself projects and renovations involving wood products. At the same time the use of wood in new build continues to increase. These are all welcome developments as the use of wood in construction and renovation results in more carbon being stored in the built environment and at the same time it substitutes for energy intensive materials, such as steel and cement, whose manufacture is dependent on the burning of fossil fuels.

The lifting, ideally before its implementation, of the Russian log export ban is hence of critical importance to all of Europe. As to how we might achieve this is the reason we would like to meet with you as a matter of some urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Sampsa J. Auvinen - Chair of the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries

Ignazio Capuano - Chairman of the European Association of the Paper Industry and CEO of Burgo Group

Michele Falcone – President of the European Office Furniture Federation

Rob van Hoesel – President of the European Federation of Wood Pallet and Packaging Manufactures

Herbert Jöbstl - President of the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, SVP Head of Operations Stora Enso Wood Products (Austria)

Lorenzo Onofri- Chairman of the European Federation of the Parquet Industry and CEO & Sales Manager of Stile Società Cooperativa

Edi Snaidero – Chairman European Furniture Industries Confederation, Chairman of the Management Board at

Snaidero Rino SpA and delegated member of kitchen manufacturers within Assarredo (FederlegnoArredo)

Ad Wesselink – President of the European Timber Trade Federation and Managing Director at Wijma Kampen B.V.

Martin Brettenthaler – Chairman of the European Panel Federation and CEO of SWISS KRONO Group

4.8 Research, Development and Innovation

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) is a European Technology Platform (ETP) dedicated to the forest-based sector. It is the meeting place for industry, forest owners and public authorities, to discuss and build up a critical mass of knowledge on common research and innovation needs for the sector, and to decide on the best ways to cooperate.



In this way, FTP delivers sound, scientific, strategic and EU-relevant information to public funding providers, thus facilitating opportunities for targeted investments in research, technological developments and innovation (RTDI).

The main aim of FTP is to develop, promote and implement a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, to advance competitiveness and sustainability of the forest-based sector through innovation.

FTP was founded in 2005 by four forest-based sector associations: CEI-Bois, CEPI, CEPF and EUSTAFOR.

4.6.1 EU Funds for the European woodworking industries

On the 22 of June, the European Commission uploaded the Horizon Europe funding opportunities for 2021-2022 on their official Funding & Tenders Portal website. Horizon Europe is the European Union's research and innovation budget for the

period 2021-2027 and it totals close to 100 billion Euro of funding.

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) has prepared an analysis of the opportunities of potential interest to the European woodworking industries. The analysis identifies the best opportunities for EU R&D funding in the coming two years and the resulting material has been assembled to the FTP Call Topic Manual 2021-2022 for the WoodWorking Industries.

CEI-Bois is pleased to observe that there are more relevant funding opportunities for the woodworking industries in the coming two years than perhaps any previous period before.

Besides the direct benefit of getting funding for research and innovation activities, we also wish to point to the fact that the Horizon Europe is one of the largest budget posts of the European Union. Its purpose is to support the objectives of the EU and also contribute to future decisions and regulations. As such, it will also contribute to shaping the future regulatory environment of the woodworking industries. The access to timber, future building regulations, product certifications, emission regulations, banning or approval of chemicals etc, might be influenced by the reports and results produced by the future EU projects that will be funded from the Calls.



It is particularly important that the industry take active part in preparing proposals for research projects, so that the end results are productive and useful for the industry for this reason FTP has prepared a Call Topic Manual for funding opportunities.

CEI-Bois, together with FTP are helping to bring together interested parties from various backgrounds (academic, industry etc...) in order to successfully apply.

4.6.2 Meeting with the European Commission on the New European Bauhaus Initiative

On Wednesday 22nd September, an ad hoc meeting was organised by CEI-Bois to discuss with Mrs Ruth Reichstein (EU Commission) on the ongoing initiatives related to the development of the New European Bauhaus.

Paul Brannen, CEI-Bois & EOS Public Affairs Director, Johan Elvnert, Director of the Forest Platform and Chair of the CEI-Bois R&D Working Group, Dr. Andrew Norton, Joint Technical Adviser of CEI-Bois and EOS, Uwe Kies, Director of Innovawood were present to this meeting having as objective to receive detailed information on:

- The European Bauhaus Laboratory - to map out problems in regulations
- Preparations of a group to formulate and refine the R&D programs for Bauhaus
- The European Bauhaus Label – where we are keen to be involved in the criteria formulation of the label
- A New European Bauhaus: The Concrete Initiative Manifesto – on this Ruth

had asked for the view of the wood-working industry.

On this occasion, Mr Elvnert stressed that the New European Bauhaus should strengthen the wood construction ecosystems all over Europe, in particular, he underlined the following aspects:

- Significant differences between national construction standards, building codes and policy support have promoted or hampered the wood construction ecosystems (city planning, architects, construction companies, saw mills and entrepreneurs etc) in different Member States.
- This means that some Member States have a strong and innovative BWW sector while others are relatively weak (compare e.g. Austria and Sweden with Belgium or Spain). Potential consortia setups will suffer from this even with the best intentions to be inclusive
- The resource side (forest, wood supply, markets) is a key factor for the BWW, and needs special consideration (distinguishing it from other/fossil based sectors)

Mr Elvnert pointed to a more level playing field between fossil and biobased materials than what had been the case in previous Horizon programmes. Further on, the analysis showed that actions related to circularity and recyclability were well addressed while support was missing on fire, wood durability and managing the heterogeneous nature of wood. The aspect of significant national differences in the BWW sector was discussed both as a challenge in setting up pan-European partnerships as well as an opportunity to quickly increase the use of Wood in some member states by learning from the front runners.

Additionally, Dr Norton drew attention to the many (30+) peer review scientific papers where direct comparisons between timber and cement buildings and materials are made, all of which clearly show the benefit of using wood, showing between a 40 to 70% reduction in GWP was reported in these. Even when the benefit of carbon storage is not included.

The cement industry stating that the store carbon permanently is somewhat out of context as any carbon storage in cement can only occur as re-carbonation after the demolition of the building, so during the life of the building there is an elevated quantity of CO₂ in the atmosphere contributing to climate change and this should not be ignored.

In addition he pointed out that the benefit of the carbon storage potential of wood is simply ignored in EPDs, PEF and whole building assessments like LEVEL(S) and that the benefit should be calculated in such schemes in order to incentivise long term product use to grow national carbon sinks.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: 18th Wood-Technology Conference

Paul Brannen, Director of Public Affairs for CEI-Bois/EOS spoke at the 18th Wood-Technology Conference, a central gathering of the forest-based industries in Croatia and the wider Southeast European on the 28th of June 2021.

He outlined the key initiatives of the European Union which are benefi-



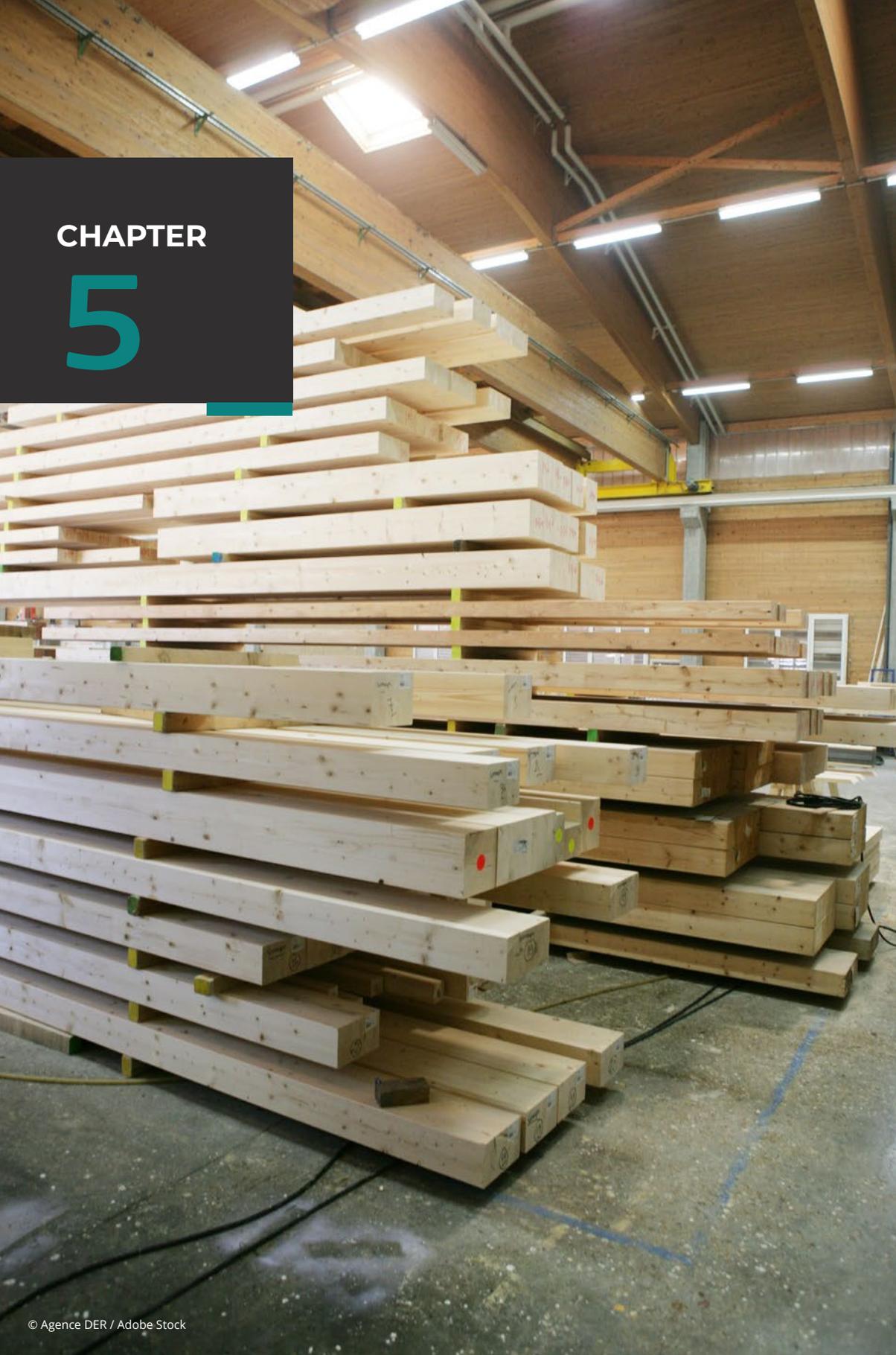
cial to the European woodworking and sawmill industries including:

- The European Green Deal – which aims to make Europe the first carbon neutral continent by 2050 which includes building and renovating in a resource efficient way while driving down emissions, hence a key role for wood.
- The Renovation Wave – which aims to make 195 million EU buildings energy efficient by 2050 and has the potential to store a huge amount of carbon in wood products.
- The New European Bauhaus – which aims to help build beautiful, affordable and sustainable buildings, hence a key role for wood.
- The Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry legislation – which aims to incentivise the use of wood in construction.
- The New Forest Strategy post-2020 – which has a section dedicated to promoting the use of wood in the built environment.

All these initiatives are supported from the very top of the Commission by the President, Ursula von der Leyen, who has called for the built environment to be turned from a carbon emitter into a carbon sink via the use of nature-based materials such as wood.

CHAPTER

5



CEI-BOIS MEMBERS



We are a responsible Industry

Brussels, 9 June 2021

PRESS RELEASE: CEI-Bois General Assembly 8th June 2021

The European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries held its first General Assembly meeting of the year on 8th June 2021. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the meeting was held online.

LATVIA, WELCOME BACK! The Latvian Forest Industries Federation decided to re-join CEI-Bois as a Member in 2021. Mr Kristaps Klaus, Executive Director of the Latvian Forest Industries Federation recalled that although there is no doubt that wood in construction is overall perceived as a climate friendly material compared to other construction products, ongoing discussions at EU level raise concerns on future raw material supply. It is essential to provide a holistic vision to the EU Institutions and defend the interests of our Industry. In joining CEI-Bois, the Latvian Forest Industries Federation wants to play its role in collaborating with other sectorial organisations in creating favourable conditions and policy to enhance the role of our industries in the development of a green economy.

The CEI-Bois General Assembly expressed gratitude in the trust placed in them

by their Latvian colleagues and looked forward to collaborating with them in delivering a united front at the EU level on the different issues and challenges ahead. CEI-Bois now counts 22 European and national organisations from 16 countries .

WOOD, A CLIMATE SOLUTION. The General Assembly was opened with a presentation by Prof. Pekka Leskinen, Head of the Bioeconomy Programme at the European Forest Institute (EFI) on the topic of “*European forests for post-fossil economy*”. During his intervention Prof. Leskinen - emphasised about the environmental benefits related to the Substitution effects of wood-based products in climate change mitigation. Healthy forests and wood production are the two sides of the same coins. Additionally, he recalled the key role that the Forest-Based Sector can play in creating a socially fair and green transition in Europe as well as its potential to replace “fossil” jobs in many European regions and sectors.

EUROPE DISCUSSES YOUR FUTURE. Any future trend that companies will face is already discussed in Brussels. Providing

reliable and effective information, together with building alliances with people who share common goals and concerns, is at the heart of the CEI-Bois lobby strategy. The CEI-Bois team provided its Members with an accurate description of the ongo-

ing activities of the Confederation (*from environment to trade, including technical legislation, R&D and social affairs*) focusing on how the EU Wood Industry can influence policies and legislations in the European arena.

....The next new CEI-Bois Members might be you! Get in contact with the CEI-Bois Secretariat to learn more about our Confederations and how to become a Member!



Blue – Direct representation through CEI-Bois National Federation Members

Green – Indirect representation through CEI-Bois’ European Sector Organisation Members

National Organisations:

AUSTRIA

Fachverband der Holzindustrie
Österreichs
www.holzindustrie.at

BELGIUM

Fédération Belge de l'Industrie Textile,
du Bois et de l'Ameublement
www.fedustria.be

CROATIA

Croatian Wood Cluster
www.drwniklaster.hr

DANEMARK

Traeets Arbejdsgiverforening -
Dansk Industri
www.di.dk

ESTONIA

Estonian Forest and Wood Industries
Association
www.empl.ee

FINLAND

Finnish Forest Industries Federation
www.forestindustries.fi

Federation of the Finnish Woodworking
Industries
www.puutuoteteollisuus.fi

GERMANY

Der Hauptverband der deutschen
Holzindustrie
www.holzindustrie.de

LATVIA

Latvian Forest Industries Federation
www.lvkoks.lv

NORWAY

Norwegian Wood Industry Federation
www.treindustrien.no

PORTUGAL

Associação das Indústrias de Madeira
e Mobiliário de Portugal
www.aimmp.pt

SLOVENIA

Slovenian Wood Processing and Furniture
Association
www.gzs.si

SWEDEN

Swedish Forest Industries Federation
www.forestindustries.se

Swedish Federation of Wood and
Furniture Industry
www.tmf.se

SWITZERLAND

Holzwirtschaft Schweiz
www.lignum.ch

THE NETHERLANDS

Nederlandse Bond van Timmer-
fabrikanten
www.nbvt.nl

UNITED KINGDOM

Timber Trade Federation
www.ttf.co.uk

European Sector Organisations:

European Institute for Wood Preservation
www.wei-ieo.org

European Timber Trade Federation
www.ettf.info

European Federation of Wooden Pallet
and Packaging Manufacturers
www.fefpeb.org

European Organisation of the Sawmill
Industry
www.eos-oes.eu

Other:

FRANCE

Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français
www.sncf.com

2021 CEI-Bois Board of Directors & Team

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Filip De Jaeger (Fedustria, Belgium)
Keith Fryer (TTF, United Kingdom)
Rob van Hoesel (FEFPEB, The Netherlands)
Denny Ohnesorge (HDH, Germany)
Juha Mäntylä (FFIF, Finland)
Anders Ek (Skogindustrierna, Sweden)
Ana Dijan (Croatian Wood Cluster, Croatia)

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Director of Public Affairs : Paul Brannen
Policy Officer: Teodora Ilieva
Policy Officer: Margherita Miceli
Technical Advisor: Andrew Norton

CEI-Bois Working Group Team:

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