

## PRESS RELEASE

### **CEI-BOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026: THE EUROPEAN WOODWORKING INDUSTRY CALLS FOR COMPETITIVENESS, SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AND A STRONGER BIOECONOMY**

***BERLIN, 11 JUNE 2026 – Members of CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries, gathered in Berlin on 9-10 June 2026 for their annual General Assembly, kindly hosted by HDH, the German wood industry federation.***

The General Assembly was followed by a European Parliamentary Evening held on 10 June at the Bavarian State Representation in Berlin, bringing together industry representatives and policymakers to discuss the future of Europe's forest-based economy. The event featured welcoming remarks from the Federal Minister for Agriculture, HDH President Dr Carsten Merforth and CEI-Bois President Sampsa Auvinen.

In his intervention, HDH President Dr Carsten Merforth underlined that *“Europe's forests are a strategic asset requiring continued investment in resilience, adaptation and sustainable forest management, and that protecting forests and sustainably using forest resources are complementary objectives. A secure and sustainable supply of wood is essential for Europe's bioeconomy, climate neutrality objectives, strategic autonomy and industrial competitiveness.”*

*“The European woodworking industry is ready to invest, innovate and contribute to Europe's competitiveness, climate ambitions and housing needs,”* said CEI-Bois President Sampsa Auvinen. *“What we need is a regulatory framework that is proportionate, predictable and practical. Sustainability objectives must go hand in hand with economic growth, innovation and investment. Excessive administrative burdens risk undermining competitiveness and slowing the transition to a circular and climate-neutral economy.”*

Against a backdrop of continued geopolitical uncertainty, challenging market conditions and persistent pressure on the construction sector, CEI-Bois members reaffirmed their commitment to investing, innovating and delivering sustainable solutions that support Europe's climate, housing and industrial objectives.

With Europe facing a growing housing shortage and an ageing building stock requiring renovation, members stressed that wood-based construction and engineered wood products can play a decisive role in delivering affordable, sustainable and high-quality housing solutions.

A central focus of the General Assembly was also the discussion on Europe's future climate and industrial policies beyond 2030 and their implications for the availability of wood.



The General Assembly highlighted as well the importance of skills development and workforce attractiveness. As a recognised European Social Partner, CEI-Bois continues to actively contribute to social dialogue at European level and is engaged in initiatives such as the GOOD<sup>3</sup>W project, which promotes diversity, inclusion and the role of women across the woodworking value chain.

A highlight of the programme was the visit to Timpla's timber-module production facility in Eberswalde, one of Germany's leading industrial timber construction plants. The visit demonstrated how modern prefabricated timber construction can provide scalable, resource-efficient and climate-friendly solutions to Europe's growing housing needs.

The European woodworking industry believes that wood products and timber construction are essential pillars of a competitive European bioeconomy. By transforming renewable raw materials into long-lasting products and buildings that store carbon, the sector contributes to climate objectives while creating jobs, supporting rural communities and reducing dependence on fossil-based materials.

As discussions continue at the European level on affordable housing, industrial competitiveness, climate policy and the future Bioeconomy Strategy, CEI-Bois reiterated its call on policymakers to recognise the strategic contribution of the wood value chain and to create the necessary framework conditions to unlock its full potential.

CEI-Bois warmly thanks HDH for its hospitality and excellent organisation of the 2026 General Assembly in Berlin.

**For further information**

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**About CEI-Bois**

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 160.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 194 billion euros and employing 930,000 workers in the EU.

*The natural choice for climate neutrality*