

PRESS RELEASE

23 November 2022, Brussels

The European Confederation of the Woodworking Industry held its winter 2022 General Assembly on 23 November 2022 in an online format.

The General Assembly representatives were pleased to see that CEI-Bois' advocacy, with the support of its members, has been rewarded by the ever-growing attention wood's ability to store carbon has received over the year and the increasing recognition of this climate benefit from both European officials and politicians.

2022 marked CEI-Bois' 70th anniversary with a celebration that took place earlier in June in the city of Skellefteå, a living example of what a sustainable climate-conscious town should look like with its various wooden buildings made using locally sourced timber, in line with the European Bauhaus objectives.

Commenting the discussions of the CEI-Bois Members, the President, Mr Sampsa Auvinen, noted: *" An increased use of wood and wood fibre products plays a key role in achieving the global transition to a net-zero economy by supplying the world with climate-positive products that support the circular bioeconomy. Our advocacy will continue with increased vigour in the months ahead with the aim of ensuring that European policies will recognise wood and wood fiber based products as a strategic material in Europe due to its key role in achieving the green deal's objectives while guaranteeing employment in Europe. Therefore CEI-Bois is advocating for a carbon certification system that measures and rewards the storage of CO2 in wood products and creates investment opportunities that also deliver significant additional benefits for climate and simultaneously increase the raw material supply from sustainably managed forests."*

The CEI-Bois General Assembly also voted for the new CEI-Bois Board Members composition.

For the Board 2023-2024 the General Assembly re-elected:

- Sampsa Auvinen, Chairman;
- Filip De Jaeger, Fedustria;
- Ana Dijan, Croatian Wood Cluster;
- Keith Fryer, Fort Merchanting, on behalf of Timber Development UK;
- Rob van Hoesel, PKF pallets, on behalf of FEFPEB;
- Denny Ohnesorge, Hauptverband der deutschen Holzindustrie

For the Board 2023-2024 the General Assembly elected:

- Antti Koulumies, UPM, on behalf of FWIF and FFIF (Finland);
- Mathias Fridholm (director, Swedish Wood), on behalf of SFIF and TMF (Sweden);
- Michael Pfeifer, Pfeifer Holz, on behalf of the Austrian association.

The Assembly warmly thanked the stepping down Board Members, Mr Ek (former chairman, Sweden), Dr Wiesner (Austria) and Mr. Mantyla (Finland), for their strong and valuable commitments to our Confederation.

The Assembly was also the occasion for members to take stock of the state of implementation of the EU co-funded project RESILIENTWOOD - 101051974 and to discuss the opportunities and possible actions CEI-Bois can undertake in 2023 in the framework of the European Year of Skills, to promote skills for the sector and improve the image of the woodworking industry.

Finally, during this meeting, CEI-Bois presented its [Advocacy Report](#), a comprehensive overview of its activities undertaken between November 2021 and November 2022 and the CEI-Bois 2023 Working programme.

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