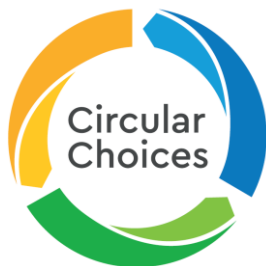


PRESS RELEASE

29 March 2023, Brussels

EU associations launch coalition for a more competitive, and ambitious, EU bioeconomy

A new group of 14 EU trade associations including the providers of high-quality wood-based products, fibre-based paper and board products and packaging, and renewable energy solutions, supported by EU forest owners and managers, has today launched a cross-sectoral coalition. The coalition's aim is to present EU policymakers with an ambitious common vision ahead of 2030 and, going beyond, one leading to a transition towards a circular bioeconomy.



Now, more than ever, is the time to embed into EU policy the circular bioeconomy as a fully integrated, resilient European value chain.

The coalition has made publicly available a [paper](#) detailing common challenges, needs, and solutions. It is also supported by a further 6 associations linked to the forestry sector.

This is the broadest coalition yet representing these value chains. Jointly, its members represent 3% of the EU's GDP, €520 billion in turnover, and 20% of its manufacturing companies. They are an integrated part of the EU bioeconomy, using local renewably-sourced materials, made and recycled in Europe, and using European technology. But their contribution could go much further. They hope to work with the EU institutions towards **creating an enabling policy environment for their sectors to collectively reach climate change mitigation equivalent to 30% of EU annual CO₂ emissions**. In 2019, this figure stood at 20%.

The coalition's ambition will require **consolidating the EU's global leadership as a provider of sustainable and competitive alternative solutions** for today, and innovative opportunities for tomorrow. Europe's wood and fibre-based value chains are widely considered a laboratory for the future circular bioeconomy.

In order to be climate neutral by 2050, **the EU needs to work with the coalition to accelerate the uptake of bio-products, encourage investments in green technologies for production processes and supply chains, and support a shift towards sustainable consumption while putting in place policies to boost the competitiveness of sustainable manufacturing industries**.

The competitiveness of the overall European industry has been impacted by the energy crunch and issues related to the supply of strategic raw materials. **Wood-based products, fibre-based paper and board products and packaging, and renewable energy solutions, offer resilience and ensure European strategic autonomy and competitiveness** via the sustainable management of sources of valuable raw materials, and secondary raw materials and related technology.

Download the paper Circular Choices for a competitive EU Bioeconomy [here](#).

Silvia Melegari, Secretary General of CEI-Bois commented on the new coalition:

“CEI-Bois is keen to highlight to the EU institutions the significant contribution that sustainable wood-based products can make in helping Europe reach its 2050 net zero climate target. In particular, timber construction products can help substitute for CO2 producing alternatives such as concrete while at the same time storing carbon in wood products in the built environment thereby helping increase carbon removals from the atmosphere. CEI-Bois has helped create this coalition to steer policy discussion in the direction of effective and immediate climate solutions.”

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CEI-Bois, the [European Confederation of Woodworking Industries](#), represents 21 European and National organisations from 15 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector with more than 180.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 152 billion euros and employing 1 million workers in the EU.

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