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PRESS RELEASE - CEI-BOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: BOARD ELECTION AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Brussels, 24 November 2026 – *The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) held its General Assembly today, electing its Board of Directors and discussing the Confederation's outlook for 2027, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation across the European wood value chain.*

Election of the CEI-Bois Board of Directors

The General Assembly renewed the mandate of Sampsa Auvinen as Chair of CEI-Bois and elected the following Board members for the period November 2026 – November 2028:

- **Sampsa Auvinen** – Chair
- **Filip De Jaeger** – Fedustria, Belgium
- **Mathias Fridholm** – SFIF & TMF, Sweden
- **David Hopkins** – Timber Development UK, United Kingdom
- **Denny Ohnesorge** – HDH, Germany
- **Michael Pfeifer** – FV Holzindustrie, Austria
- **Henrik Söderström** – FFIF & FWIF, Finland
- **Rob van Hoesel** – FEFPEB, the Netherlands

CEI-Bois warmly welcomes David Hopkins, who joins the Board for his first mandate, and extends its gratitude to all Board members for their commitment to representing and supporting the European woodworking industries.

Special thanks go to outgoing Board member Stephen King for his valuable contribution, commitment and dedication to the work of the Confederation.

2027: Towards shared priorities, coordinated action and stronger impact

Looking ahead to 2027, CEI-Bois' ambition is to further strengthen coordination across the entire wood value chain.

In an increasingly complex European regulatory landscape, identifying shared priorities, fostering cooperation and ensuring consistency in industry advocacy will be essential to strengthening the sector's representation at European level.

This is particularly relevant as EU policy initiatives are becoming increasingly cross-cutting, bringing a growing number of stakeholders into policy discussions, often with different priorities, economic interests and levels of influence. In this context, a coordinated approach across the wood value chain will be crucial to ensuring that the interests and needs of the European woodworking industries are adequately reflected in EU policymaking.

In close coordination with CEI-Bois members and with the valuable support of its Working Group Chairs, the Confederation will further assess and identify its priorities for 2027. Key policy areas expected to require particular attention include industrial competitiveness, construction and housing policies, international trade, sustainability and social affairs, as well as the revision of the post-2030 framework for national climate targets and flexibilities.

Ensuring the sustainable availability of wood raw materials and assessing the cumulative impact of EU legislation on the wood value chain will be important considerations in this process.

Building on its ongoing activities, CEI-Bois will continue to advocate for a coherent and supportive European policy framework that enables the woodworking industries to remain competitive and contribute fully to Europe's economic, industrial, climate and sustainability objectives.

The General Assembly also reviewed CEI-Bois' advocacy, representation and communication activities throughout 2026, highlighting the Confederation's continued engagement with European institutions, industry stakeholders and international partners.

The CEI-Bois Advocacy Report 2025–2026, providing a comprehensive overview of the Confederation's activities, will be available on the CEI-Bois website at the beginning of December.

The next CEI-Bois General Assembly will take place on **14 June 2027 in Vienna**, **ahead of the Evergreen Prize 2027.**

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.

www.cei-bois.org