

PRESS RELEASE

FORESTS AND WOOD PRODUCTS: A STRATEGIC ENGINE FOR EUROPE'S BIOECONOMY

BRUSSELS, 20 March 2026 - Sustainably managed forests and wood products can accelerate the transition to climate-neutral economies while strengthening rural development and industrial competitiveness. Europe cannot achieve its bioeconomy ambitions without a clear, science-based commitment to increasing the sustainable supply of wood and a policy approach that recognises market realities.

Forests are at the core of Europe's bioeconomy, providing renewable resources that can replace carbon-intensive materials while supporting economic growth and employment, both in rural and urban areas.

Wood products play a crucial role in the transition to climate-neutral economies. In construction, wood stores carbon for decades while significantly reducing the climate footprint of buildings. As policymakers search for innovative ways to cut emissions, the answer is already growing in our forests: wood. Every time wood replaces a fossil-based material, emissions go down.

While circularity and efficient resource use are essential, **the real strength of wood lies in its renewability**. Unlike fossil-based materials, wood comes from naturally regenerating resources. Through sustainable forest management, forests continuously grow, absorb carbon and provide renewable materials for society.

To unlock the full potential of the forest-based bioeconomy, policies must recognise that **healthy forests must also remain productive forests**. Sustainable forest management and a predictable supply of renewable raw materials are essential to deliver climate benefits, innovation and long-term economic prosperity.

Quote

On 19 March, speaking at the FAO event on “*Forests and economies - sustainable production and bioeconomy pathway*” celebrating the World Forest Day, Mrs Melegari, CEI-Bois and EOS Secretary General, stated that “*Europe cannot achieve its bioeconomy ambitions without a clear, science-based commitment to increasing the sustainable supply of wood and a policy approach that recognises market realities.*”



About CEI-Bois

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) 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.

About EOS

The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) represents the interests of the European sawmilling sector on European and International level. Through its member federations and associated members, EOS represents some 35,000 sawmills in 11 countries across Europe, manufacturing sawn boards, timber frames, glulam, decking, flooring, joinery, fencing and several other wood products. Together they represent around 77% 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 in the EU.

The natural choice for climate neutrality