

## PRESS RELEASE

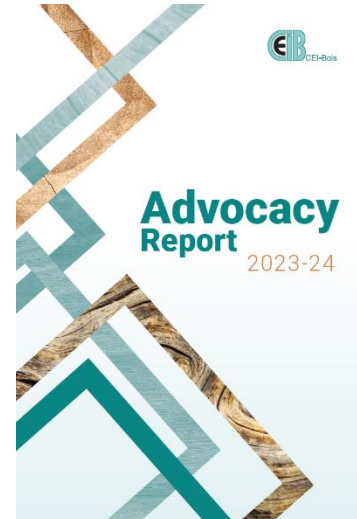
### CEI-BOIS PRESENTS ITS 2024 ACTIVITIES, SETS ITS 2025 PRIORITIES AND ELECTS ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

***BRUSSELS, 25 November 2024 - The Autumn General Assembly of CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, took place online on 21 November 2024. The delegates were drawn from across CEI-Bois' membership which spans 16 countries and 22 European and national organisations who collectively represent more than 180,000 companies.***

The General Assembly took place against the backdrop of a new, recently elected European Parliament and the yet to be completed process of forming a new European Commission. As a consequence of these changes, CEI-Bois has begun the process of preparing for a new political context and a new legislative agenda in Brussels. As part of this process, the General Assembly were informed of the policy proposals emerging from the new Commission with a view to assessing and then choosing which proposals to prioritise for advocacy when setting the work agenda of CEI-Bois for 2025.

The General Assembly afforded the opportunity for the publication of CEI-Bois' 2023-24 [Advocacy Report](#). The report covers the full breadth of CEI-Bois' work over the last year, a few highlights of which include:

- last summer, the European Parliament recognized CEI-Bois' efforts in promoting participation in the elections to the European Parliament during a Partnership Agreement Event organised for all communication partners of the European Elections 2024 Campaign in the presence of the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola MEP.
- CEI-Bois' active membership and strong engagement in the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPop), an initiative led by the Austrian Government. CEI-Bois' were actively involved in the launch of the WoodPop policy paper '[A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe](#)' in November 2024.
- the latest on the evolution of the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) which has seen CEI-Bois put a great deal of effort during 2024 into engaging with the legislative development of the EUDR. Throughout the process CEI-Bois sought to communicate to the key political actors the need for a fluid and streamlined regulation that delivers the just and noble goal of combating deforestation while at the same time also being practical and implementable for companies.
- the finalising of the Carbon Removals Certification Framework which recognises the capture and storage of carbon for at least 35 years in long lasting nature-based products such as timber.



- the completion of the EU funded [Resilient Wood Project](#) and the publication of its recommendations aimed at increasing, via social dialogue, the attractiveness and retention levels of the wood sector as an employer.
- the publication, jointly with the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, of two important advocacy documents: '[Biomanufacturing, the circular bioeconomy and the European woodworking and sawmill industries](#)' and '[The European Woodworking and Sawmill Industries Manifesto for the 2024-29 political term](#)'.
- the delivery of the recently published book '[Timber! How wood can help save the world from climate breakdown](#)' to key members of the European Parliament and its imminent delivery to the relevant Commissioners once they have been confirmed in post.

The General Assembly received reports on the activities of the various CEI-Bois working groups which cover a wide range of issues including construction, sustainability, social affairs and trade.

The General Assembly included the endorsement of the CEI-Bois Board Members, who now have a two-year mandate running from November 2024 to November 2026: Sampsa Auvinen – Chair, Michael Pfeifer (FV Holzindustrie, Austria), Mathias Fridholm (SFIF & TMF, Sweden), Filip De Jaeger (Fedustria, Belgium), Stephen King (TDUK, United Kingdom), Ana Dijan (Croatian wood cluster, Croatia), Rob van Hoesel (FEFPEB, The Netherlands), Denny Ohnesorge (HDH, Germany), Antti Koulumies (FFIF & FWIF, Finland).

The Summer General Assembly will take place in Helsinki, Finland 10th-11th June 2025 hosted by Finnish Forest Industries.



Sampsa Auvinen, on his re-election as CEI-Bois Chair: *"I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity to continue serving as Chairman of the Board of CEI-Bois for the next two years. It is a privilege to work alongside such a highly professional and dedicated team, as well as an exceptional Board of Directors, who share a collective passion for advancing the European woodworking industry. I would like also to sincerely thank all CEI-Bois members for their ongoing trust and support."*

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### Useful documents

[CEI-Bois 2023-2024 Advocacy report](#)

[A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe](#)

[Biomanufacturing, the circular bioeconomy and the European woodworking and sawmill industries](#)

[The European Woodworking and Sawmill Industries Manifesto for the 2024-29 political term](#)

[Timber! How wood can help save the world from climate breakdown](#)

### For further information

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### About CEI-Bois

Founded in 1952, CEI-Bois is the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries. It is an international non-profit association, legally registered as an AISBL under the Belgian law. The Confederation is based in Brussels and numbers 18 national organisations and 4 European sector federations.

The primary goal of CEI-Bois is to promote the interests of the European wood sector and to this end to contribute to the EU policy-making process. It is the main body representing the European woodworking industries at European and international level.