Brussels, 3 November 2020

Joint Position Paper on the Renovation Wave Strategy

We, the undersigned, warmly welcome the publication on 14 October 2020 of the Renovation Wave Strategy: "A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives". The Woodworking Industries believe that a refurbished and energy efficient EU building stock has a key role to play in the post covid-19 recovery and "new normal" by creating green jobs, revitalising regenerative growth and paving the way for the decarbonisation of one of the largest energy consumer sectors in Europe responsible for more than one third of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Wood-based solutions offer a green construction material that is renewable, recyclable and has a low fossil carbon footprint and benefits from better environmental performances in life cycle assessments than other conventional materials. Wood prefabricated solutions also offer modular possibilities to redesign and modernise buildings in a non-invasive way, for example through additional storeys or roof extensions.

In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal of climate neutrality by 2050, sustainable circular economy and energy efficiency, the Renovation Wave Strategy holds the unique potential of turning the EU built environment into a carbon sink. In this respect we particularly welcome:

- The proposal to establish a New European Bauhaus in which **nature-based materials such as wood** can play a crucial role underlining their **double benefit of carbon storage in EU building stock and energy-intensive material substitution**;
- The ambition to create up to **160.000 additional decent green jobs** by 2030 and upskilling workers to at least double, better triple the renovation rate;
- The role of **the social partners**, including workers' and employers' representatives of the construction and woodworking sectors at national and European level, who have solid expertise in upskilling workers, attracting new talent and promoting an inclusive working environment and who should be involved in the design and implementation of measures to achieve these goals;
- The use of renovation as a lever to address **energy poverty** and access to healthy housing for all households;
- The inclusion of **lifecycle thinking and circularity** as key principles through the promotion of green infrastructure and the use of organic **carbon storing building materials** such as sustainably sourced wood;
- The establishment of lead actions based on **circular use and reuse of sustainable materials** and the **full integration of innovative and climate-friendly nature-based solutions**;
- The elaboration of a **2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings through the use of biobased products**, and review material recovery targets;
- The promotion of the **environmental sustainability of building solutions and materials**, **including wood and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions and recycled materials on the basis of a comprehensive life-cycle assessment approach**;
- The concept of a **whole building assessment such as Level(s),** the European Framework for Sustainable Buildings, to improve the sustainability of buildings throughout their lifecycle **where carbon storage benefits can be accounted for**;

- The revision of the Construction Product Regulation in line with the **sustainability performance of construction products**;
- The possible development of **green public procurement criteria** for public buildings related to lifecycle and climate resilience;
- The establishment of measures to increase reuse and recycling platforms and support a **well-functioning internal market for secondary raw materials**;
- The prioritisation of building renovation in the national recovery plans under the **European Flagship 'Renovate'**.
- The possibility to introduce a **'deep renovation' standard** to enhance private financing for genuine green investments.

Those renovation principles should be now implemented through the National Energy & Climate Plans and Long-Term Renovation Strategies to take an important leap forward in the achievement of the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Signatories:

European Panel Federation (EPF)
European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)
European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS)
European Federation of the Parquet Industry (FEP)
European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS)

*The **European Panel Federation (EPF)** has members in 25 Member States and represents the manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood. The EU wood panel industry has an annual turnover of about 22 billion EUR, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. www.europanels.org*

***The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW)** is the European Workers' Industry Federation for the following sectors: building, woodworking, forestry and allied industries and trades. The EFBWW has 76 affiliated unions in 34 countries and represents a total of 2,000,000 members. www.efbww.eu*

*The **European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois)** represents 21 European and National organisations from 15 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector: more than 180.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 133 billion EUR and employing 1 million workers in the EU. www.cei-bois.org*

*The **European Federation of the Parquet Industry (FEP)** reunites more than 50 European parquet manufacturers, 8 national parquet associations and around 20 suppliers to the industry. It is the main body representing and defending the interests of the European parquet industries at all relevant levels. www.parquet.net*

*Through its member federations and associated members, the **European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS)** represents some 35,000 sawmills manufacturing sawn boards, timber frames, glulam, decking, flooring, joinery, fencing and several other wood products. Together they represent around 80% 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. www.eos-oes.eu*