



European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers



European Commission
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Joint Positive Opinion on the Draft New EU Forest Strategy especially its support for the cascade use of wood and harvested wood products

The undersigned warmly welcome the ambition of the Draft of the New EU Forest Strategy post-2020 to optimise the use of wood. Forests and the forest-based circular bioeconomy play an essential role in our economy and society especially with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is therefore indeed important to unlock the full potential of forests for our future especially for storing carbon in harvested wood products and substituting in tendency other energy intensive, non-renewable and fossil-based materials for construction, renovation, furniture, flooring and packaging.

The signatories are very pleased to underline specific positive aspects and foreseen actions under the new Forest Strategy, especially:

- Ensuring that “wood is optimally utilised in line with the cascading principle” and the preferred material use to increase the carbon lifecycle in line with the expected strengthened sustainability criteria for the use of biomass for energy production;
- Supporting harvested wood products to promote sustainable forest bioeconomy, the transition to a more bio-based circular economy and extending the carbon lifecycle in products is very much appreciated especially in the framework of “the most important role of wood products is to help turning the construction sector from a source of greenhouse gas emissions into a carbon sink, as set out in the Renovation Wave Strategy and the new European Bauhaus initiative”;
- Establishing a standard, robust and transparent methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products as CO₂-storage reflecting the most advanced dynamic life cycle analysis techniques;
- Ensuring that the review of the Construction Products Regulation better reflects the importance of considering temporary carbon storage as a key aspect of the environmental performance of products;
- Including sustainable activities related to harvesting, production and use of wood products in the forthcoming reviews of the delegated acts of the Regulation Taxonomy on mitigation and circular economy.
- The potential of the forest sector to provide sustainable workplaces in rural areas. To this end, the need to combine the new Forest Strategy with skills policies to keep the sector innovative and make it again more attractive or sound industrial relations to guarantee a just transition is considered as crucial too.

Finally, the cosignatories welcome the focus on re- and afforestation and that the Forest Strategy includes a Roadmap for the implementation of the pledge for planting at least 3 billion additional trees by 2030 based on the overall principle of planting and growing the right tree in the right place and for the right purpose.

The European Panel Federation (EPF) represents the manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 32 European countries. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 22 billion euro every year, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. The production of wood-based panels in the EU-27 (+UK+EFTA) in 2020 was an estimated 58.0 million m³. www.europanel.org

The European Federation of the Parquet industry (FEP) reunites more than 50 European manufacturers of parquet, 8 national associations and more than 20 suppliers to the industry. FEP has members in 20 countries. The EU parquet industry has an annual turnover of about 2.5 billion euro, provides 16,000 direct jobs and counts more than 1,000 enterprises. The production of parquet in European FEP countries is estimated at 76 million m² in 2020. www.parquet.net

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