



Press Release

15 November 2018

EPF welcomes the European Commission's Guidance on Cascading Use of Biomass

The European Wood-Based Panels Federation (EPF) congratulates the European Commission on its new Guidance on Cascading Use of Biomass launched yesterday at Raw Materials Week in Brussels. The guidance is part of the Circular Economy Plan, and includes actions that seek to “close the life-cycle loop of products and materials by keeping their value in the economy as long as possible...” EPF shares this vision that is embodied in wood-based panels.

In particular, EPF embraces the section that highlights the value of wood-based panels to cascading, and thus to the Circular Economy: “The manufacture of wood-based panels epitomises the cascade principles in that low-value wood and wood waste are converted into new materials and products, themselves reducing waste and adding value as they pass through downstream processors. Bringing panels into mainstream construction and furniture has transformed both how major building components are constructed and brought affordable furniture to the global mass market. These benefits have been delivered whilst reducing waste and reducing cost”.

In her opening address, Mrs Lowri Evans, Director General of DG Grow urged producers to increase efficiency whilst reducing emissions in order for Europe to remain competitive until 2050 and beyond. EPF's members proudly submit Particleboard, MDF, OSB, Plywood, Hardboard and Softboard as active examples of this due to their natural carbon storage properties as well as their integral role in the cascading concept, and thus the Circular Economy.

For further information, please contact us at info@europanels.org.

About EPF

EPF – the European Panel Federation has members in 25 countries 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 Euros, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe.