

EPF ANNOUNCES PRODUCTION INCREASE IN 2018

The European Panel Federation, representing the European manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood, gathered in Dunblane, Scotland, from 26 to 28 June 2019 for its Annual General Meeting, this year hosted by Norbord Europe. Attendees received a copy of the 21st issue of EPF 2018/2019 Annual Report, the headline figures of which were presented during the meetings. Overall, the industry recorded a production growth during 2018 of +1.7%, led by increases on particleboard, plywood, hardboard and softboard.

During the General Assembly, Dr. Paolo Fantoni (Fantoni) was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of EPF for this third term from 2019-2021. Mr. Bernard Thiers (Unilin) remains Vice-Chairman. In addition, Mr. Martins Lacis (Latvijas Finieris) will join the Managing Board of EPF as the new Chairman of the Plywood Product Group and successor of Mr. Guillermo Hernanz (Garnica Plywood), who retired from this position that he had held since the plywood manufacturers joined EPF in 2016.

During the Open Part of the General

Assembly, EPF welcomed more than 100 attendees to a stimulating debate on the opportunities to grow the demand for wood-based panels in construction, in furniture, in packaging and in other applications. It concluded that an increased use of panels would bring multiple benefits, whilst helping to achieve the shared vision of a climate neutral Europe in 2050.

The next EPF Annual General Meeting will be held from 17 to 19 June 2020 in Berlin hosted by VHI, EPF's German member association.

The meeting room



Dunblane, Scotland, hosted the EPF 2019 Annual General Meeting



PRODUCTION (million m ³)	COUNTRIES	2018	2017	2018/2017
Particleboard	EU28 + EFTA	32.0	31.2	2.6%
MDF	EU28 + EFTA	12.3	12.3	-0.5%
OSB	EU28 + EFTA	6.2	6.3	-1.6%
Hardboard	EU28 + EFTA	0.5	0.5	1.5%
Softboard	EU28 + EFTA	5.2	4.9	5.9%
Plywood	EU28	3.2	3.1	1.7%
TOTAL wood-based panels	Total	59.3	58.3	1.7%

Source: EPF