

## Press release

### **European Forest-Based Industries team up to empower consumers for a carbon-neutral European society**

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Brussels, 19 November 2019 - In the light of the climate crisis, the European Forest-Based Industries, including the wood-based panels sector, have come together to present their vision [\[Vision 2050\]](#) of the European society in 2050 and the essential role that they can play, delivering on the carbon neutrality goal.

The Forest-Based Industries will provide the most competitive and sustainable net-zero carbon solutions. They will do that by:

- Substituting CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive raw materials with forest-based alternatives;
- Eradicating waste and boosting recycling with a sector target of at least 90% material collection and 70% recycling rate for all wood-based products;
- Driving resource efficiency and enhancing productivity in all areas including materials, manufacturing and logistics.

According to Dr Paolo Fantoni, Chairman of EPF: *“Wood-based panels are a shining example of the circular economy in action. For example, more than 50% of the raw material for our sector already comes from recovered wood and industrial by-products. We turn one industry’s waste into our industry’s products.”*

As we can meet society’s current and future needs with non-fossil materials, we anticipate a growing demand for wood and wood-based products, especially wood-based panels, that we expect to be translated into the Forest-Based Industry’s market growth of 3% annually.

While the implementation of this pioneering vision needs to overcome some hurdles, such as market distortions from subsidies and a concerning tendency of Member States towards fragmentation not harmonisation, we plan to engage in active market development, to ensure that our innovative solutions, from sustainable sources, can continue to reach consumers in their daily lives, helping to secure our goal of a Clean Planet for All in 2050.

The full report is available upon request from EPF.

#### *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. Contact us at [info@europanels.org](mailto:info@europanels.org).*