



10 March 2020

## **A New Industrial Strategy for Europe: call for including the Bioeconomy in the new European Industrial Strategy.**

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The European Panel Federation (EPF), the European Federation of the Parquet industry (FEP) and EOS, the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (*three sectors with a combined yearly turnover of approximately 75 Billion EUR - representing 53% of the wood working value chain*), **call the Council and the European Parliament for including the Bioeconomy in the new European Industrial Strategy.**

Released today, the new Industrial Strategy is **putting forward a proposal completely disregarding the value of the Bioeconomy in achieving a green and sustainable growth**, while energy-intensive industries play a primary role in the Strategy. The European Commission itself has calculated the Bioeconomy as representing 18 million jobs and 2.3 Trillion EUR (see the 2018 [EU Bioeconomy Strategy](#)), yet this is largely disregarded in the leaked EU Strategy. We find this hard to believe and understand.

Although some parts of the Bioeconomy are already long-established, in recent years, due to new technological developments, the Bioeconomy has proven to be a tool to reduce dependency on fossil fuels-based products and lead new and innovative bio-based solutions. In an increasingly tense geopolitical context, many of these solutions, unlike most fossil fuels-based products, also offer security of supply as raw materials can be sourced and produced in Europe.

*“Considering that the primary objective of the Industrial Strategy is to create favourable conditions for the development of an environment-friendly industrial fabric, **the new European Industrial Strategy should include a Bioeconomy** focused on the production and utilisation of biological resources to generate high-value bio-based products. Overall, the Bioeconomy encompasses the traditional Bioeconomy sectors, such as agriculture, forestry and forest-based industries, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as related processing and service industries, such as food, paper, textiles, construction, chemistry and biopharma. Demand for bioproducts is rapidly growing worldwide and represents an immediate and effective way to reduce carbon emissions. This is a major economic opportunity for Europe that shall not be missed!”.*