



**Draft Report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the  
European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward 2019/2157(INI)  
Rapporteur : Petri Sarvamaa**

**Amendment 1  
Paragraph 8.a (new)**

Draft Report	Amendment
	<i>a. Stresses however the need to avoid unnecessary market distortions for wooden raw materials from support schemes for early energy recovery from biomass;</i>

**Amendment 2  
Paragraph 8.b (new)**

Draft Report	Amendment
	<i>b. Calls therefore for the stimulation of the circular use of harvested wood products to promote resource efficiency, waste reduction and the extension of the carbon life cycle for the deployment of a sustainable bioeconomy;</i>

**Amendment 3  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Report	Amendment
	<i>Call for the creation of an EU forest resource monitoring system aiming at providing real-time information on the European forest resources and aiming at forecasting the impact of natural disturbances such as bark beetles, forest fires, storms, on wood availability and forest health.</i>

**Amendment 4**  
**Paragraph (new)**

Draft report	Amendment
	<i>Calls for a uniform implementation of the EUTR across Europe and for concrete requirement avoiding arbitrary interpretation of the EUTR due diligence system.</i>

**Draft Opinion of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy for the  
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development the European Forest  
Strategy - The Way Forward 2019/2157(INI) Rapporteur: Mauri Pekkarinen**

**Amendment 1  
Paragraph 4**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
4. Encourages the use of wood as an environmentally friendly raw material; underlines that wood-based products and wood construction provide an effective way of increasing carbon storage;	4. Encourages the use of wood as an environmentally friendly raw material; underlines that wood-based products and wood <i>in</i> construction <i>and renovation</i> provide an effective way of increasing carbon storage <i>throughout the whole life cycle</i> ;

**Amendment 2  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Acknowledges that carbon storage in wood products can help decrease the amount of CO2 emissions in the atmosphere. For this reason, calls for a mechanism that rewards “CO2 saving” when revising the relevant climate and energy legislation (substitution effects of wood-based products as a tool for climate change mitigation).</i>

**Amendment 3  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Stresses the need to avoid unnecessary market distortions for wooden raw materials from support schemes for early energy recovery from biomass;</i>

**Amendment 4  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Calls for the stimulation of the circular use of harvested wood products to promote resource efficiency, waste reduction and the extension of the carbon life cycle for the deployment of a sustainable bioeconomy;</i>

**Amendment 5  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Call for the creation of an EU forest resource monitoring system aiming at providing real-time information on the European forest resources and aiming at forecasting the impact of natural disturbances such as bark beetles, forest fires and storms on wood availability and forest health.</i>

**Draft Opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development the European Forest Strategy - The Way Forward 2019/2157(INI) Rapporteur: Jessica Polfjärd**

**Amendment 1  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Stresses the need to avoid unnecessary market distortions for wooden raw materials from support schemes for early energy recovery from biomass;</i>

**Amendment 2  
Paragraph (new)**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
	<i>Calls for the stimulation of the circular use of harvested wood products to promote resource efficiency, waste reduction and the extension of the carbon life cycle for the deployment of a sustainable bioeconomy;</i>

**Amendment 3  
Paragraph 5**

Draft Opinion	Amendment
<i>5. Expresses its concern over the health condition and resilience of forests in many parts of Europe; highlights the need to strengthen and make full use of EU mechanisms to tackle the transboundary pressures on forests from the spread of invasive alien species, pests, and diseases.</i>	<i>5. Expresses its concern over the health condition and resilience of forests in many parts of Europe <b>due to climate change and outbreaks of forest insect pests and diseases</b>; highlights the need to strengthen and make full use of EU mechanisms to <del>tackle the transboundary pressures on forests from the spread of invasive alien species, pests, and diseases.</del> <b>provide real-time information on the European forest resources and aiming at forecasting the impact of natural disturbances such as bark beetles, forest fires, and storms on wood availability and forest health.</b></i>

## Explanatory Statement

The circular use of wood is in line with the principles of resource efficiency, decarbonisation and waste hierarchy since it demands increased targets for wood recovery and allows for the re-use of wood wastes into new innovative bio-based products (such as wood-based panels and furniture) that store carbon and can substitute fossil-based and energy-intensive materials. Therefore, the use of bio-based products and systems, especially in construction and renovation, is a unique opportunity to increase the carbon sinks into a sustainable and climate friendly environment.

On the other hand, the availability of biomass feedstock in necessary quantities, decent quality and at affordable cost is essential for the deployment and the maintenance of the bio-based industry across the Union. Subsidies for early combustion of biomass for energy recovery creates market distortions for wooden raw materials and damages value chains. Furthermore, burning biomass should only occur at the end of the life cycle otherwise it challenges the principles of resource efficiency, decarbonisation, circularity and waste hierarchy.

Concerning the EU forest resource monitoring system, it is worth noticing that in the past two years, the volume of damaged wood (mainly caused by bark beetle propagation) amounted to around 200 million m<sup>3</sup> in Central Europe and Italy (damaged wood for both years: 2018 and 2019). In 2017 the amount of damaged wood was 27.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, in 2018 over 80 million m<sup>3</sup>, and in 2019 118 million m<sup>3</sup>. Currently the most affected EU Region is Czech Republic where it has been forecasted a further worsening of the bark beetle calamity in most areas. The main reasons for this are an extreme increase in the infestation rate of stocks, a weakening of spruce stocks due to the lack of rainfall and bottlenecks in control. Since 2015, the volume of beetle-damaged wood has roughly doubled every year, and since 2018, it has exceeded regular harvest (usually 16 million m<sup>3</sup>). Last year, total harvest (regular harvest and damaged wood) amounted to around 27.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, of which 7.5 million m<sup>3</sup> might not have been removed from forests in time.

In addition to threats caused by pathogens elements (such as bark beetles), forests are affected as well by climate change. The Forestry Department of the university of Padova (IT) estimated that spruces presence in forests will drastically decline in the coming 80 years due to an increasing temperature in our Continent. By 2100 the presence of spruces will be limited only to Nordic areas (or high-altitude areas in Central Europe). At the same time, it should be noted that 80% of the entire wood processing industries is based on the use of spruce/pine resources – most of engineered wood products used in construction are at present made from spruce.