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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

THE EUROPEAN WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES WELCOME THE PARLIAMENT REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE EU FOREST STRATEGY

On 7 October 2020 the European Parliament, gathered in Plenary session, adopted the own initiative report “The European Forest Strategy – The way forward”, led by the Rapporteur Petri Sarvamaa (Finland, EPP Group).

The European Woodworking Industries endorse the adopted report, which stresses the need for a balanced, independent and self-standing EU Forest Strategy for the post-2020 period, built on a comprehensive understanding of Sustainable Forest Management. This approach is the way forward to enable the European forests and forest-based Industries to tap into their potential of climate change mitigation and sustainable job creation, in line with the 2050 climate-neutrality objective of the EU. As the report rightly acknowledges, *“stepping up the circular bio-economy is an essential approach to achieving a low-carbon society in the implementation of the Green Deal”*, and the European Woodworking Industries play an essential role in that transition.

The sector also offers an example of a circular bio-based industrial ecosystem, where materials, by-products and residues are supplied across the various parts of the value chain to make the most efficient use of resources, including through re-use and recycling.

Promoting the use of wood-based products also provides a robust and immediate solution for reaching a carbon-neutral EU economy, thanks to the effects of carbon storage in wood and substitution of fossil-based materials. This offers the potential to decarbonise the building sector, both in sustainable new construction and in the energy efficient renovation of the existing building stock: wood products used in renovation provide excellent insulation properties and require less energy in manufacturing and transport, thereby reducing the final embodied energy in the building.

The Forest-based bioeconomy brings jobs and growth mainly in rural areas: the number of employees in the Woodworking Industries alone should be estimated at substantially more than 2.1 million, for a total number of 180.000 companies and a production value of €240 billion in 2018. The European Woodworking Industries are committed to the legal and sustainable sourcing of raw materials. The provision of wood is one of the many key functions of sustainably managed forests, and one that provides the income to be reinvested in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, to preserve the health and resilience of European forests against the increasing threats of disturbances and diseases.



Press Release

THE EUROPEAN WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES

The European Woodworking Industries drive the development of a sustainable European bioeconomy and are key contributors to jobs and growth. In 2018 the production value of the sector reached closed to 240 billion EUR. The sector counts almost 180.000 companies in Europe, most of which are small and medium sized. Given the SME structure of the industry (it should be borne in mind that some countries do not take into account firms with less than 20 employees, thus the global figures tend to substantially underestimate the employment in small and medium-sized industrial sectors) the actual total number of employees in the EU-28 wood industries should be estimated at substantially more than 2.1 million in 2018.

Signatories:



CEI-Bois is the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries. It represents 21 European and National organisations from 15 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector. www.cei-bois.org



The European Panel Federation (EPF) represents the manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 32 European countries. The EU wood panel industry creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. Annual turnover is approximately €22 billion. www.europanel.org



The European Federation of the Parquet industry (FEP) reunites more than 80 members in 20 countries: European parquet manufacturers, national parquet associations and suppliers to the industry. The primary goal of FEP is to strengthen and improve the position of wood flooring as a sustainable floor covering solution. www.parquet.net



The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) represents some 35,000 sawmills manufacturing sawn boards, timber frames, glulam, decking, flooring, joinery, fencing and several other wood products. EOS represents around 80% of the total European sawn wood output in a sector that has a turnover of around 35 billion EUR and employs about 250,000 people. www.eos-oes.eu