

The New European Bauhaus:
How can the wood sector engage,
contribute and co-create?

Circular bio-based materials and solutions for a sustainable, affordable and beautiful transformation of the built environment

Virtual Conference **8 April** 2021, 10:00 – 16:00 CET



PRESS RELEASE

The New European Bauhaus: wood sector sets out its stall

wood4bauhaus Virtual Conference Thursday 8 April 2021

Keynote address to be given by top adviser to EU Commission President

“A mastermind of the Bauhaus”

In her call for a [New European Bauhaus](#) movement, EC President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed that wood can play a key role in transforming the built environment into a carbon sink¹. Central to her thinking is Professor Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber of the Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, who has recently been named as an ambassador for the [New European Bauhaus High-level Roundtable](#) and who will deliver the keynote address of the first conference of the Wood4Bauhaus Alliance.

Welcoming the President’s inspirational new initiative, the European wood-based sector launched the Wood Sector Alliance for the New European Bauhaus ([Wood4Bauhaus.eu](#)) to establish an open platform of stakeholders. This newly established sectoral alliance is initiated by several umbrella organisations: the InnovaWood EU network for wood research, innovation and education, the European Wood-Based Panel Federation (EPF), the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS). It has also the support of the Horizon 2020 project consortia BASAJAUN and WoodCircus.

[wood4bauhaus.eu](#) intends to become an active Partner of the New European Bauhaus and, as a first initiative, will hold on 8 April 2021 a Virtual Conference on how the wood sector can contribute to the new Bauhaus.

Wood is an extremely versatile natural material and a circular material par excellence. Long-life products using wood can store carbon for decades or even centuries in buildings and living spaces. The conference aims to raise awareness of the transformative power of the Circular Economy, put a spotlight on the versatility of innovative wood-based products

¹ [State of the Union Address 2020, 16/09/2020](#)



European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers



BASAJAUN

wood
CIRCUS



and building systems, and propose dedicated co-creation partnerships with the wood sector for the New European Bauhaus.

As highlighted by Mr Clive Pinnington, EPF Managing Director: *“Wood and wood-based panel products are natural, sustainable and climate positive. They offer multiple benefits including energy efficient construction and innovative furniture materials and are therefore a perfect fit for the objectives of the New European Bauhaus”.*

In the words of Mr Paul Brannen, Head of Public Affairs for CEI-Bois & EOS and a former MEP: *“We are delighted that Professor Schellnhuber, one of the brains behind the new Bauhaus, has agreed to address our conference which will highlight the key role wood can play in tackling climate change, providing affordable housing and bringing beauty into our built environment”.*

Dr Uwe Kies, Secretary-General of InnovaWood, underlines: *“The New European Bauhaus is a great opportunity for companies, researchers and students in the wood sector to become part of this transformative movement. Joining our forces and knowledge we can co-create climate-friendly solutions and literally build a more sustainable future for our cities and rural areas. We welcome all who wish to take this first step with us”.*

Mr Tom Deleu, General Secretary of the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) pointed out: *“The alliance will demonstrate that more building and renovation with wood will contribute to the EU’s ambition to turn the building sector into a carbon sink. It will also be demonstrated with plenty of examples that climate friendly and energy-efficient buildings can be attractive and comfortable and, the sector can also be a driver for quality jobs in rural areas.”*

Speakers include architects, designers, industry representatives, researchers and policymakers. For more information, the complete programme of the conference and registration please visit the conference website: wood4bauhaus.eu

Brussels, 11 March 2021

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Background info

The [European Commission's New European Bauhaus](#) calls for a creative, interdisciplinary, novel movement embedded in the society to imagine together a sustainable future and to engage on a transformative path towards affordable and beautiful living spaces in the urban and rural environment. A key step is the transformation of the building sector into a circular model that can also counteract the escalating climate crisis.

The Wood4Bauhaus Alliance comprises the following founding partners:

[InnovaWood](#) is EU network for wood science, research, innovation and education of 60 organisations in 28 countries, including RTOs, universities, VET centres and cluster organisations.

The [European Confederation of Woodworking Industries \(CEI-Bois\)](#) is an umbrella organisation of 21 European and national organisations from 15 countries backing the interests of the whole wood sector.

The [European Panel Federation \(EPF\)](#) represents 100,000 direct jobs and counts more than 5,000 wood-based panel manufacturing and furniture companies in 25 countries.

The [European Federation of Building and Woodworkers \(EFBWW\)](#) is the European Trade Union Federation grouping 76 national free trade unions from 34 countries with members in the building, building materials, woodworking, forestry and allied industries and trades.

The [European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry \(EOS\)](#) represents 35,000 sawmills in 12 countries.

[BASAJAUN](#) and [WoodCircus](#) are R&D project consortia fostering sustainable wood supply chains from forest harvesting to final buildings and Circular Economy solutions in the sector. They have received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements no. 820892 and 862942.

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