



EUROPEAN PANEL FEDERATION
WOOD - BASED PANELS

European Commission
DG AGRI.D.4 – DG ENV.D.1 – DG CLIMA.C.3

Brussels, 17 November 2020

EPF Feedback on EU Forest Strategy Roadmap

The European Panel Federation (EPF), welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Roadmap on the EU Forest Strategy. The wood-based panels industry believes that an independent and self-standing EU Forest Strategy for the post-2020 period, built on a comprehensive understanding of Sustainable Forest Management, is the way forward to enable the European forests and forest-based industries to tap into the potential of the EU forest-based bioeconomy¹ to mitigate climate change and to create sustainable jobs. In this respect, EPF calls on the European Commission to consider the following points when elaborating its proposals for the future EU Forest Strategy:

- Acknowledge carbon storage in wood products² that can help decrease the amount of CO₂ emissions in the atmosphere by developing a mechanism that rewards “CO₂ saving” when revising the relevant legislation;
- Promote the use of climate positive products (such as wood-based panels) which provide a robust and immediate solution for reaching a carbon-neutral EU economy, thanks to the effects of carbon storage in wood-based products and substitution of fossil-based and energy intensive materials;
- Avoid unnecessary market distortions for wooden raw materials from support schemes for early energy recovery from biomass in line with the principle of resource efficiency, circularity and the waste hierarchy;
- Stimulate the cascade 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 forest-based bioeconomy;
- Develop 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.

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 has a turnover of about €22 billion every year, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. The production of wood-based panels in the EU-28 (+EFTA) in 2019 was an estimated 59.2 million m³. www.europanel.org

Ref: 2020-97

¹ 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.

² According to a recent Study “[Climate effect of the forest-based sector in the European Union](#)” The European forests and the forest-based sector provide integrated solutions to the global climate challenge on a very large scale. The overall and positive climate effect is estimated at -806 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually. This corresponds to c. 20% of all fossil emissions in the European Union.