



**EUROPEAN PANEL FEDERATION**  
WOOD - BASED PANELS

European Commission

Brussels, 3 December 2020

## **EPF Feedback on the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme - supporting the European Green Deal**

The European Panel Federation (EPF), welcomes the possibility to provide a feedback prior to the adoption of the “8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme - supporting the European Green Deal (8<sup>th</sup> EAP)”. The wood-based panels industry believes that, in the framework of the implementation of the objectives of the European Green Deal and of the Sustainable Development Goals, the mainstreaming and streamlining environmental principles is essential to ensure coherence and synergies between the different EU policies and actions. In this respect, EPF calls on the European Commission to consider the following points to feed the legislative debate:

- Effective implementation of the New Circular Economy Action Plan and the Renovation Wave Strategy is of the utmost importance for the transition towards a climate-neutral, resource-efficient clean and circular economy in a just and inclusive way within the framework of a green and digital recovery;
- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions and removals are both essential in order to attain climate neutrality by 2050 and thus appropriate accounting is a *sine qua non* condition to achieve climate targets;
- According to a recent Study, the overall and positive climate effect of European forests and the forest-based sector is estimated at -806 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually, this corresponds to c. 20% of all fossil emissions in the European Union;
- In this respect, the substitution effect and the long-term storage of carbon in harvested wood products (such as wood-based panels) should be duly accounted when assessing sustainability considerations;
- There is therefore a unique opportunity when implementing the New Circular Economy Action Plan and the Renovation Wave Strategy to shift towards a regenerative economy, creating sustainable jobs and turn the built environment into a carbon sink through the promotion of circular bioeconomy and the use wood and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions and recycled materials.

*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 euro 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 m<sup>3</sup>. [www.europanel.org](http://www.europanel.org)*

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