



EUROPEAN PANEL FEDERATION
WOOD - BASED PANELS

European Commission
DG RTD.B.2

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EPF feedback on the roadmap on “European Bioeconomy Policy: Stocktaking and future developments”

The European Panel Federation (EPF) warmly welcomes the possibility to provide a feedback on the roadmap on “European Bioeconomy Policy: Stocktaking and future developments” and would be glad to actively participate in the stakeholder workshop that will be organised as part of the preparation of the progress report on the implementation of the Bioeconomy Strategy. EPF believes indeed that the bioeconomy ought to play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal, support the transition towards a resource efficient circular economy and sustainable recovery and foster a green, digital and resilient recovery on the path to net neutrality by 2050.

In 2018, the European Commission adopted its Communication “A sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe: Strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment” where it estimated the European bioeconomy as representing 18 million jobs and € 2.3 trillion in turnover. The circular bioeconomy has indeed proven already to be a tool to reduce dependency on fossil fuels-based products and lead new and innovative nature-based materials and solutions such as sustainably sourced wood.

It is therefore essential to unlock the full potential of the circular bioeconomy for our future especially for storing carbon in harvested wood products and substituting in tendency other energy intensive, non-renewable and fossil-based materials for construction, renovation, furniture, flooring and packaging. Moreover, for a circular bioeconomy to be genuinely sustainable, wood resources ought to be optimally utilised in line with the cascading principle and the preferred material use of the waste hierarchy to increase the carbon lifecycle and ensure high resource efficiency, as endorsed in the Fit for 55 set of proposals.

Finally, EPF believes that the implementation of the Bioeconomy Strategy Action Plan should foster the support for harvested wood products to promote sustainable forest bioeconomy and the transition to a more nature-based circular economy that will help to extend the carbon lifecycle in wood products. It holds indeed a huge potential especially in the framework of the implementation of the Renovation Wave Strategy and the New European Bauhaus initiative to help turning the construction sector from a source of GhG emissions into a carbon sink.

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 26 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-27 (+EFTA) in 2020 was an estimated 58 million m³. www.europanel.org

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