

PRESS RELEASE

EPF reports strong 2021 results but is cautious for 2022, launches 5 Strategic Directions, announces Board changes, and rings in an era of sustainability at their AGM 2022 in Ghent

Brussels, 1 July 2022

EPF, the European Wood-based Panels Federation, proudly welcomed more than 150 participants to its AGM 2022 on 29 June -1 July in Ghent Belgium. The gathering was wonderfully hosted by EPF National Association member Fedustria, the Belgian federation of the textile, wood and furniture industries and its member companies UNILIN and Norbord West Fraser Belgium.

Results

Production (million m ³)	Countries	2021	2020	21/20	21/19
Particleboard	EU27+UK+EFTA	34.3	30.7	11.9%	7.0%
MDF	EU27+UK+EFTA	12.9	12.0	7.6%	6.0%
OSB	EU27+UK+EFTA	7.2	7.0	2.0%	6.3%
Hardboard	EU27+EFTA	0.5	0.5	2.4%	2.3%
Softboard	EU27+EFTA	5.6	5.0	12.6%	19.0%
Plywood	EU27	3.2	2.8	12.2%	6.8%
Total Wood-Based Panels		63.7	58.1	9.8%	7.6%

EPF was delighted to announce strong results from 2021, with an overall production increase of 9.8%. All product types recorded increases from the previous year, and each exceeded pre-pandemic levels, showing the resilience of the sector and the growing interest of the public in nature-based materials such as panels. However, it was noted that these results should be treated with caution in terms of how 2022 might develop.

Mr Martin Brettenthaler, EPF Chairman, commented: *“Like the city of Ghent, our sector has always been innovative, dynamic and sustainable. I am confident that this will help us to find opportunity in today’s turmoil, but this is no longer business as usual. That is why we need our politicians to help secure the energy we need, and the wood we require, but not by burning the latter to supply the former. That is not the solution either in the long, medium or short-term”.*

5 Strategic Directions

Mr Martin Brettenthaler, Chairman, launched EPF’s 5 new Strategic Directions: Role Model Industry, Climate, Wood Availability, Harmonisation and Regulation. These were accompanied by a short video and a fact sheet and may now be found on EPF’s website: www.europanel.org. The 5 Strategic Directions are the focus areas of EPF’s work in the coming years.





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Elections

EPF's General Assembly accepted the resignation of Mr Bernard Thiers, CEO of UNILIN as Vice-Chairman and Managing Board Member, thanking him warmly for his many valuable years of service and support. Replacing Mr Thiers, Mr Pablo Figueroa López, Executive Committee member of FINSA, was chosen as the new Vice-Chairman and Mrs Veronique Hoflack, President of UNILIN Panels, was elected to the Managing Board.



Era of sustainability

Despite the turbulent times bringing a multitude of challenges, EPF looks forward to playing its role as a role model industry in the economy, in the environment and in society during the coming years. This was symbolised by the ringing of the wood-based panels bell by Mr Brettenthaler and Mrs Hoflack. With this, EPF hopes to usher in a new era of sustainability in construction, furniture, packaging and other markets served by innovative, climate-smart wood-based panels.



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About EPF - the European Panel Federation has members in more than 32 European countries and represents the manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood. The EU wood-based panels industry has an annual turnover of about 22 billion euro and creates over 100,000 jobs directly. Contact us at info@europanels.org.