

Position Paper**The Role of the Harvested Wood Products in the post-2020 EU Climate Change Policy Framework**

The Woodworking Industries welcome the agreement made at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015 and remind that the Woodworking Industries contribute to tackle climate change by storing carbon in Harvested Wood Products (HWP) and substituting non-renewable materials. The production and processing of wood is highly energy-efficient giving wood products a low carbon footprint.

The C-sink effect of HWP and the material substitution effects for energy-intensive non-renewable and fossil materials are two fundamental and important aspects of using more wood. Carbon storage in HWP together with substitution of functionally equivalent alternative non-renewable materials and products by wood and wood-based products offer a strong potential to lower Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, decrease the use of fossil fuels and increase carbon storage. Every cubic meter of wood used in buildings, has captured almost one ton of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Moreover, every cubic meter of wood used as a substitute for other building materials reduces CO₂ emissions by an average of one ton. As a result, significant benefits in mitigation of climate change can be gained.

Opportunities for stimulating the use of wood products should be explored by Member States as it will facilitate reducing CO₂ emissions and achieving climate targets. For instance, a mere 4% increase in the output of Europe's Woodworking Industries would store 150 additional million tons of CO₂, which are equivalent to 3% of European GHG emissions. Furthermore, 80,000 new jobs and €2.35 billion to the EU's economy would be created. To make this reality a strong policy support to circular and bio economy is needed.

The role of sustainable forestry calls for a holistic approach from EU policies that aim to tackle climate change and promote economic growth. The Woodworking Industries are committed to source wood from forests that are managed following the ecological, economic and social principles of sustainability. Sustainably managed European forests increase the growing stock and sequester 9% of European net GHG emissions. The long-term sequestration of CO₂ into forests and thus mitigation of climate change can be further increased by active and proper management of forests as well as by afforestation measures.

The Woodworking Industries believe that the Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector can play an important role within the EU Climate Change Policy Framework. Forests provide renewable raw material that is reusable and recyclable. Wood is used to produce a broad range of existing goods as well as new and innovative products for daily living. The Woodworking Industries welcome that in the Commission's proposal LULUCF remains a separate pillar.

The Woodworking Industries also underline that the Paris-like bottom up approach is needed when defining the forest reference levels. The reference levels need to be established by Member States in accordance with the projected use of forest resources. The accounting has to reflect the actual forest growth and sequestration rates in the managed forests to avoid cases in which actual sinks are accounted as emission sources. The Woodworking Industries see that Commission's LULUCF proposal emphasizes too much on forests as carbon sinks. The increased use of HWP can substantially limit GHG emissions and enhance removals from the atmosphere, in this respect active forestry, wood mobilization and when locally feasible, the expansion of forest area should be promoted.

CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, represents 24 European and National organizations from 16 countries and is the Organization backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector: more than 175.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 125 billion euros and employing 1 million workers in the EU.

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