



Main Legislative and Policy Priorities of CEI-Bois
WEI - 09 September 2021



TOPICS:

1. Overview of the ongoing works:

- Bauhaus Initiative
- Club du Bois
- COP26
- Wood Industries roundtable discussion
- Forests, Fit for 55 package, but not only
- Trade overview

2. What to expect in the coming months

3. Others

BAUHAUS INITIATIVE:

Dedicated event in collaboration with other Wood Associations;

Follow-up meeting with the Commission to consolidate the role of timber construction in the Bauhaus initiative (previous meeting with [Mrs Ruth Reichstein](#) was held in May).

Collection of academic papers and studies to dispel erroneous statements on the benefits of timber in construction spread by competitors (notably by the concrete industry:

<https://theconcreteinitiative.eu/newsroom/publications/240-a-new-european-bauhaus-the-concrete-initiative-manifesto>)



The New European Bauhaus:
How can the wood sector engage, contribute and co-create?
Circular bio-based materials and solutions for a sustainable, affordable and beautiful transformation of the built environment
Virtual Conference 8 April 2021, 10:00 – 16:00 CET

 “ We know that the construction sector can even be turned from a carbon source into a sink, if organic building materials like wood and smart technologies like AI are applied.”
Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
State of the Union Address, 16/09/2020

The European Commission's New European Bauhaus calls for a creative, interdisciplinary, novel movement embedded in the society to imagine together a sustainable future and to engage on a transformative path towards affordable and beautiful living spaces in the urban and rural environment. A key step is the transformation of the building sector into a circular model that can also counteract the escalating climate crisis. Welcoming this initiative, the European wood-based sector aims to create an open platform "Wood4Bauhaus" that brings together its manifold stakeholders.

Wood is an extremely versatile material, and a circular material par excellence. Long life products using wood can store carbon for decades or even centuries in buildings and living spaces. The conference aims to raise awareness for the transformative power of the Circular Economy, put a spotlight on the versatility of innovative wood-based products and building systems, and propose dedicated co-creation partnerships with the wood sector for the New European Bauhaus.



InnovaWood is EU network for wood science, research, innovation and education of 60 organisations in 28 countries, including RTOs, universities, VET centres and cluster organisations. innovawood.com

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) is an umbrella organisation of 21 European and national organisations from 15 countries backing the interests of the whole wood sector. cei-bois.org

The European Panel Federation (EPF) represents 100,000 direct jobs and counts more than 5,000 wood-based panel manufacturing and furniture companies in 25 countries. europanel.org

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWV) is the European Trade Union Federation grouping 76 national free trade unions from 31 countries with members in the Building, Building Materials, Wood, Furniture, Forestry and Allied sectors. efbwv.eu

The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) represents 35,000 sawmills in 12 countries. eos-oes.eu

BASAJAUN and WoodCircus are Horizon 2020 project consortia fostering sustainable wood supply chains from forest harvesting to final buildings and Circular Economy solutions in the sector. basajaun-horizon.eu woodcircus.eu

[GO TO REGISTRATION FORM](#)

 BASAJAUN and WoodCircus received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements no. 820892 and 862942.

wood4bauhaus.eu



CLUB DU BOIS:

Organised by the CEI-Bois, EOS and EPF, the Club du Bois met online on 27th May to consider the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon.

During the meeting the European Woodworking Industries called upon policy makers to:

1. Acknowledge the benefit of stored carbon at product level
2. Acknowledge the climate benefit of wood at a building level
3. Develop appropriate digital tools for carbon accounting

➔ Such measures would result in less CO₂ being emitted AND a bigger carbon sink being created which taken together would result in much less CO₂ in the atmosphere.



Simona Bonafè MEP chair of the Club du Bois noted: “Wooden construction materials can provide renewable alternatives to fossil-based and carbon intensive materials while replanting and sustainable forest management ensures that forests resources are not depleted.

Eero Heinaluoma MEP stated “Investments into wood-based products are needed as they promote sustainability and reduce emissions when replacing fossil-based products. The Commission needs to consider ways to account for wood products alongside forests as a means for increasing the forest sink.”.

COP 26:

Manifesto of the wood industries at global level;

- Overall message: the environmental reasons to use wood and wood contribution to tackle climate change
- Correlated PR campaign at EU and National level
- Possible video message



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Wood Industries roundtable discussion on 13.09.21

- ➔ This meeting aims at facilitating an exchange of information on challenges, concerns and opportunities at National level and better understand the dynamisms that characterise the European wood industries value chain .
- National/Association/Company concerns, challenges and priorities of the wood working industries;
- Overview of the Recovery plan for Europe with focus on the funding for green buildings and forestry based industries.

Forests, the Fit-for-55 package, but not only....



- Follow up on the reaction of the Parliament (possibly) and Council to the new [European Forest Strategy](#), based on the previous [Common position](#) and on further analysis by the Sustainability WG
- Monitoring/feedback when possible on the **EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Fitness Check**, and on new initiative on **Imported deforestation** (expected Dec. 2021)
- Follow-up on the “**EU WOOD**” Study on incentivisation of carbon storage in buildings based on the results of the study in the context of **LULUCF Regulation revision**
- Action on **RED Revision**: following discussion –not direct involvement
- Bioeconomy – inputs and comments at the EC progress report (online consultation)
 - EU Commission, possible update of the EU Bioeconomy action plan and/or the Strategy at the latest by 2022.

TRADE

- Tackling market access restrictions in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus: the **Russian log export ban** is the most urgent priority
- Exchange of information on post-Brexit trade arrangements (e.g. CE marking, UK Timber regulation)
- Building relationship with Indian partners (via Embassy in Belgium)
- Flagging other market access barrier to the Commission when relevant



What to expect in the coming months:

- Revision of the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)**
- Communication on **restoring sustainable carbon cycles** and a response to an EU Council recommendation 'to address the social and labour aspects of the climate transition'.
- Package dealing with **sustainable products and consumption**:
 - a sustainable products policy initiative, including a revision of the Ecodesign Directive; a communication on 'empowering the consumer for the green transition'; and a proposal for an EU regulation on substantiating environmental claims (including methodology for establishing the environmental footprints of products and organisations)
- Package of nature proposals, dealing with **nature restoration**, deforestation and soil. Among these will be measures on protecting biodiversity, including **restoration targets**.
- Strategy on **minimising the risk of deforestation and forest degradation** associated with products placed on the EU market,
- (Proposal to revise the 2008 EU Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law)

Other:

- Sustainable Finance & Taxonomy: input to other 4 environmental objectives criteria (notably Circular Economy for construction)
- Follow-up action on Propiconazole ban in cooperation with Eurowindoor, Small Business Standards
- Social affairs (skills, education and wood promotion)



Brussels, 3 November 2020

Joint Position Paper on the Renovation Wave Strategy

We, the undersigned, warmly welcome the publication on 14 October 2020 of the [Renovation Wave Strategy: "A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives"](#). The Woodworking Industries believe that a refurbished and energy efficient EU building stock has a key role to play in the post covid-19 recovery and "new normal" by creating green jobs, revitalising regenerative growth and paving the way for the decarbonisation of one of the largest energy consumer sectors in Europe responsible for more than one third of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Wood-based solutions offer a green construction material that is renewable, recyclable and has a low fossil carbon footprint and benefits from better environmental performances in life cycle assessments than other conventional materials. Wood prefabricated solutions also offer modular possibilities to redesign and modernise buildings in a non-invasive way, for example through additional storeys or roof extensions.

In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal of climate neutrality by 2050, sustainable circular economy and energy efficiency, the Renovation Wave Strategy holds the unique potential of turning the EU built environment into a carbon sink. In this respect we particularly welcome:

- The proposal to establish a New European Bauhaus in which **nature-based materials such as wood** can play a crucial role underlining their **double benefit of carbon storage in EU building stock and energy-intensive material substitution**;
- The ambition to create up to **160.000 additional decent green jobs** by 2030 and upskilling workers to at least double, better triple the renovation rate;
- The role of **the social partners**, including workers' and employers' representatives of the construction and woodworking sectors at national and European level, who have solid expertise in upskilling workers, attracting new talent and promoting an inclusive working environment and who should be involved in the design and implementation of measures to achieve these goals;
- The use of renovation as a lever to address **energy poverty** and access to healthy housing for all households;
- The inclusion of **lifecycle thinking and circularity** as key principles through the promotion of green infrastructure and the use of organic **carbon storing building materials** such as sustainably sourced wood;
- The establishment of lead actions based on **circular use and reuse of sustainable materials** and the **full integration of innovative and climate-friendly nature-based solutions**;
- The elaboration of a **2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings through the use of biobased products**, and review material recovery targets;
- The promotion of the **environmental sustainability of building solutions and materials, including wood and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions and recycled materials on the basis of a comprehensive life-cycle assessment approach**;
- The concept of a **whole building assessment such as Level(s)**, the European Framework for Sustainable Buildings, to improve the sustainability of buildings throughout their lifecycle **where carbon storage benefits can be accounted for**;