



**Club du Bois**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
**EU Parliament Strasbourg**

As a follow-up of the Brussels Wood Action Days, the European Panel Federation (EPF) and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS), supported by the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and the European Federation of the Parquet Industry (FEP), organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Club du Bois meeting under the chairwomanship of Mrs Maria Noichl, MEP, on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The meeting was held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The three main topics of discussions were

1. Mobilisation of new wood resources
2. Cascade Use of Wood
3. Build More with Wood

These were analysed in the context of EU policy regarding the Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency, Renewable Energy & Climate targets and the Re-Industrialisation of Europe. Approximately 50 people attended the event being industry professionals, federations, stakeholders and the following members of the EU Parliament (MEPs):

- Mrs Maria Noichl, DE – Chairwoman
- Mrs Sirpa Pietikainen, FI – Guest Speaker
- Mrs Miapetre Kumpula-Natri, FI – Guest Speaker
- Mr Eric Andrieu, FR
- Mr Brando Benifei, IT
- Mr Paul Brannen, UK
- Mrs Elisabeth Köstinger, AT
- Mr Edouard Martin, FR
- Mr Damiano Zoffoli, IT
- Mrs Anne Sander, FR, represented by her assistant Mrs Huck



*Mr Clive Pinnington (EPF Managing Director), MEP Paul Brannen, Mr Marc Michielsen (CEI-Bois Chairman) & Mr Ernest Schillinger (EOS Board member)*

### Opening, by Mrs Maria Noichl, MEP

Mrs Noichl opened the meeting and expressed her pleasure to see such a large number of participants and MEPs. She stressed the versatile applications of wood products and gave the floor to the experts of the sector asking them to illustrate the challenges and opportunities for the woodworking industries.

### New Renewable Energy Directive for 2030: Wood Scarcity, by Mr Ladislaus Döry, EPF Chairman

Mr Döry introduced woodworking as the 5<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturing industry in Europe that employs 3 million workers and contributes more than €218 billion to the economy. He expressed the sector's target to grow by 4%, thereby adding 80,000 jobs especially in rural areas, generating €405 million extra in tax revenues and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 150 million tonnes.



*Mr Döry (EPF Chairman) & the attentive audience including 11 MEPs as well as several assistants*

Mr Döry presented the participants with data on wood availability and the dramatic raise of wood as an energy source rather than as a material. He stressed that Europe will face a dramatic shortfall of wood by around 2020 as Member States attempt to meet their National Renewable Energy Action Plans as required by the EU Renewable Energy Directive. Mr Döry clearly recognised the importance of mobilising more wood resources and stressed that national subsidies should be redirected to increase wood availability and not to the production of renewable energy with wood.

There was a unanimity in the room that “Grow to Burn” was not the most efficient use of our planet’s resources. As an alternative, the sector’s ‘Cascade’ principle (use, re-use, recycle) that helps to provide 30x more jobs and 10x more value was presented and fully supported. Mr Döry closed with a challenge to “Build more with wood”, thereby encouraging a virtuous circle that satisfies the EU's Energy, Climate and Industrial goals together.



*MEP Damiano Zoffoli & MEP Brando Benifei*



*MEP Elisabeth Köstinger, Mr Paulo Scommegna (EPF member company Saviola Group), MEP Eric Andrieu*

### Wood-working in the bio-economy, by Mrs Miapetre Kumpula-Natri, MEP

As Chairwoman of the bio-economy European Parliament Intergroup, Mrs Kumpula-Natri fully supported the cascade flow of wood, albeit adapted intelligently and not arbitrarily to local and regional differences, this being the best use of resources. However, she explained that not everybody is fully aware or in support of this principle; in fact the very same day the European Parliament had voted and adopted a compromised agreement on the production of biofuels that does not respect a cascading principle or a waste hierarchy. MEP Kumpula-Natri pointed out that wood is not just a traditional material, but may also lead to the production of innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly materials.



*MEP Maria Noichl & MEP Miapetre Kumpula-Natri*

As regards ‘building with wood’, she highlighted that unfortunately Finnish fire regulations are still impeding a strong development of wooden buildings. MEP Kumpula-Natri stressed that the use of resource efficient tools was and is the only way to reach 2020 objectives in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

### Circular Economy: optimising the entire lifecycle of materials, by Sirpa Pietikainen, MEP

Resource efficiency was the main topic of discussion for MEP Sirpa Pietikainen, who is the EP Rapporteur for the European Report proposal on “Resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy”. She invited all present to read her report, and underlined several elements that she considered of major importance. MEP Pietikainen explained that the excessive and unsustainable use of resources is the root of various environmental hazards, such as climate change, desertification, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. For this reason, resources should be used in a

more efficient way, in particular with the application of the cascading principle. Additionally, the use of sustainable, renewable resources should come first compared to non-renewable resources.

Mrs Pietikainen introduced the concept of “Backcasting”. She took the 2050 goal of consuming no more than 1x our planet’s available resources and encouraged that we reach this via a series of measurable targets and sub-targets. She highlighted the importance of the Ecodesign Directive, where all relevant resource-efficiency features should eventually become mandatory for product design. MEP Pietikainen concluded with a challenge to all attendees to support the setting of binding targets to help us achieve our future ambitions for Europe.



*MEP Maria Noichl & MEP Sirpa Pietikainen*

### Indicators for resource efficient buildings, by Kimmo Järvinen, Secretary General of EOS



*Mr Kimmo Järvinen, EOS Secretary General*

Mr Järvinen emphasised the role of wood as a tool for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. He highlighted that the CO<sub>2</sub> stored in timber building products can reach ca. 800kg/m<sup>3</sup> and that the substitution of wood for other construction materials in buildings could save an average of 1.1 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>.

To demonstrate the value of using more wood products in buildings he presented the results that might have been achieved had the European Parliament in Strasbourg been made of timber and wood, namely a significantly lower carbon footprint and reduced energy demand. Mr Järvinen concluded that CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity and/or a CO<sub>2</sub> footprint calculation should be part of the building LCA in order to improve Europe’s resource efficiency and the environmental performance.





*MEP Edouard Martin and assistant with EPF members Mr Bernard Retureau (EGGER) & Mr Olivier Hugon-Nicolas (UIPP)*

### Conclusion

Throughout the day there were very active question and answer sessions. The engagement of the participants, especially the MEPs, was a great encouragement to the sector. The clear conclusion of the day was that EU policymakers and the woodworking industry should work together to support the regionally sensitive cascade use of wood as the best way to use this valuable resource. Mrs Noichl closed the session with thanks to all involved and looked forward to the next meeting.



*Club du Bois dinner  
Mr Olivier Hugon-Nicolas, Mr Kris Wijnendaele, MEP Maria Noichl, Mr Ladislaus Döry,  
MEP Paul Brannen and Mr Clive Pinnington*