



Press release

Unveiling of the “Wood Box” at the European Parliament & Presentation of the Woodworking Industry Manifesto

Brussels, 22 September – Today the European Woodworking Industry unveiled the “Wood Box” in Brussels, a model exhibition showcasing the technological, design and environmental potentials of building with wood. The “Wood Box” will stand in front of the European Parliament on Luxembourg Square until 26 September, during the *Brussels Wood Action Days*.

The *Brussels Wood Action Days (22-26 September)* marks the start of a renewed dialogue between Europe’s Woodworking Industry and European decision makers. More than 40 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), 20 trade associations, experts and European Union (EU) policy makers will meet to discuss ways to enhance the competitiveness of the sector. Seminars and workshops will focus on aspects related to the environment, climate change, competitiveness, agriculture and rural development.

The *Brussels Wood Action Days* are also the occasion for the European Woodworking Industry – the 5th largest manufacturing industry in EU – to present its new Manifesto 2014-2019. The Manifesto sets out the sectors call on the EU institutions to create the favourable operating climate needed for the sector to continue to deliver jobs and the positive economic impact that comes with growth.

“Our new Manifesto lays the foundation for our collaboration with the EU at a crucial time for citizens and the economy, as Europe continues to face a severe economic and social crisis”, says **Måns Johansson, President of the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry**. “We are delighted to have the attention of the new institutions and the participation of a large delegation from the European Parliament during the *Brussels Wood Actions Days*. This is an important step to recognise the sector’s contribution to Europe’ industrial renaissance and its potential in terms of job creation.”

“Following the *Brussels Wood Action Days* we are committed to continue this dialogue with the EU institutions within the ‘Club du Bois’, a forum that will bring together MEPs and other stakeholders who believe in the European Woodworking Industry and commit to support the sector’s competitiveness”, states **Marc Michielsen, Chairman of the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries**. “Europe’s Woodworking Industry aims to increase its total annual industrial output by 4% per year, which represents a EUR 2.35 billion increase for the European economy, including EUR 405 million in increased tax revenue annually for Member States, 80 000 new jobs and a reduction of atmospheric CO₂ emissions by an additional 150 million tonnes.”

“In the past, the EU’s climate and energy policies have had contradictory objectives, especially when it comes to the use of wood. The EU’s climate policy should aim to support the long lifecycle of wood whereas at times it discourages its material use. On the other hand, The EU’s energy policy in the past has promoted the short lifecycle as bio-energy”, says **Ladislau Döry, Vice Chairman of the Confederation of European Woodworking Industries and President of the European Panel Federation**. We believe that the combination of climate action & energy under one Commissioner Portfolio could be a move in the right direction provided that the EU institutions use this positive momentum and redirect the current incentives for bio-energy production to support the increase of wood raw material supply to the whole forest-based sector”.



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About the “Wood Box”:

The “Wood Box” is brought to Brussels by the Austrian Wood Promotion Organisation pro:Holz. It began its roadshow in Milan, Ljubljana, Bratislava and Klagenfurt before it arrived in Brussels. More info: www.wooddays.eu

About the “Club du Bois”:

Established in 2006 by the European Woodworking Industry, the ‘Club du Bois’ is a cross-party discussion forum aiming to create a sustained dialogue with Members of the European Parliament on all EU legislative issues affecting the sector in Europe.

The ‘Club du Bois’ encourages active participation of European Commission and Member State representatives to provide updates and feedback on current and forthcoming issues.

About CEI-Bois/EPF/EOS:



European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois):

CEI-Bois has 27 European and National Member Federations in 17 countries. It is the main body defending and representing the interests of the European woodworking industries, which includes more than 184,000 companies generating an annual turnover of 122 billion euros and employing around 1.1 million workers in the EU.

Web: www.cei-bois.org



European Panel Federation (EPF):

EPF has members in 25 countries and represents the manufactures of particle board, MDF, OSB, hard and soft board. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 22 billion euro every year, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe.

Web: www.europanel.eu



The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS):

Through its member countries EOS represents some 35 000 sawmills in 13 countries across Europe manufacturing sawn boards, timber frames, glulam, decking, flooring, joinery, fencing and several other wood products. Together they represent 75 % of the total European sawn wood output and a turnover of almost 34 billion EUR, creating over 259 000 job opportunities annually in the EU.

Web: www.eos-oes.eu

For more information please consult:

Website: www.woodforgrowth.eu

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