



## **THE WOOD-BASED PANEL INDUSTRY AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

### **To ensure efficient and optimal use of biomass resources, in line with the principle of cascading use of wood**

The bioeconomy is increasingly viewed by policymakers as a golden time to develop opportunities that will facilitate economic and employment growth whilst delivering solutions that address the global challenges presented by climate change and energy security. The wood-based panel and furniture industries are proud to be part of the bioeconomy.

Parallel to the bioeconomy, a central platform of European climate policy is to develop a role for bioenergy as a means of mitigating climate change through the substitution of non-renewable fossil-based fuels with sustainable alternatives. Whilst supportive of the overall policy objectives, the wood-based panel and the wood-based panel furniture industries are concerned by the potentially negative consequences that such policies, intended to develop one industry, can have on another.

Inherent in their activities, wood material producers embrace many of the climate imperatives through growing the carbon store, maximising carbon life, recycling, and recovering the energy at ultimate end of life. Bioenergy production from woody biomass is ostensibly a destructive process that relies on converting wood from the solid to either a gas or liquid in the shortest space of time. Policy must ensure that the conversion is done with as little impact as possible to those processes that are inherently seeking to extend the carbon life, and as a consequence are utilising such a valuable raw material in as resource-efficient a manner as possible.

In this “Venice Declaration” EPF, the European Panel Federation, has developed a core set of principles for the Circular Economy to help ensure the continued contribution of the wood-based panel industry to Europe, whilst still allowing for the conversion of woody biomass waste to energy at the end of its material life. EFIC, the European Furniture Industries Confederation, wishes to emphasise its support for these policies intended to support the growth of wooden furniture manufactured in Europe. EPF and EFIC together call upon the European Institutions to integrate these policy principles into future legislation.

#### **About EPF**

EPF, the European Panel Federation, has members in 25 countries and represents the manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood. The European wood-based panel industry has an annual turnover of about 22 billion Euros, creates over 100,000 jobs directly and counts more than 5,000 enterprises in Europe. For more information contact [info@europanels.org](mailto:info@europanels.org).

#### **About EFIC**

EFIC, the European Furniture Industries Confederation, is the voice of the jointly united European Furniture industries. EFIC was founded in 2006 by seven national federations representing the furniture industries in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey and it was later joined by Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Russia and Norway. Furthermore, Hungary, The Netherlands and France joined EFIC in 2015. EFIC now represents more than the 70% of the total turnover of the furniture industries in Europe, a sector that employs about 1.1 million workers in close to 130,000 companies. For more information contact [info@efic.eu](mailto:info@efic.eu).



## THE VENICE DECLARATION

### THE WOOD-BASED PANEL INDUSTRY AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**To ensure efficient and optimal use of biomass resources, in line with the principle of cascading use of wood**

- Balance the pressure on wood availability:
  - Determine a level that can be sustainably supplied in the long term;
  - Impose criteria taking into account resource efficiency and competition with different wood users;
  - Cap the bioenergy share of fulfilling the RED overall quota;
- Create a level playing field by removing market distortions:
  - Discontinue the financial incentives for woody bioenergy jeopardising the material use of wood;
  - Use correct full carbon accounting for biomass by implementing the rules in the LULUCF decision;
  - Remove multiple accounting in the ILUC Directive;
- Enhance the role of wood in the circular economy:
  - Stimulate wood availability by promoting segregation at source particularly from construction and demolition (selective deconstruction).
  - Increase the recycling targets for wood packaging waste, and introduce targets for wood recycling from other waste streams.
  - Remove legal barriers impeding the material use of urban wood.
  - Cap the total maximum of wood waste going to landfills leading to future ban of wood from landfilling.
- Create a market pull for wood products:
  - Prefer products manufactured from wood in public procurement for building construction;
  - Increase awareness regarding growth in carbon stock or extension of carbon life when using wood products in furniture and construction;
  - Stimulate the increase of the pool of harvested wood products in use thereby extending the carbon sink from the forest.

---

Dott. Paolo Fantoni  
Chairman EPF

---

Mr Markus Wiesner  
Chairman EFIC

Venice, July 2016