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WOOD PRODUCTS DRIVE THE DECARBONISATION OF THE BUILDING SECTORS IN LINE WITH THE GREEN DEAL CLIMATE MITIGATION OBJECTIVES

The European goal has been set: becoming the first climate-neutral Continent by 2050. However, to achieve climate neutrality and comply with the ambitious Paris Agreement target, all economic and business players should take a step further in their commitment to a greener society and economy.

“The success of this commitment relies on measuring the climate impact of economic activities. In this respect the European Woodworking Industry believes that it is essential to develop criteria for a robust and transparent carbon accounting method to monitor and verify the emissions associated with materials and construction processes, including the benefits associated with carbon storage” stated Dr A. Norton, LCA/Technical Expert on behalf of the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) during his attendance to two high-level events on the 8 and 9 of October, respectively organised by the European Regions Research and Innovation Network and by DG Climate Action of the European Commission. Throughout his interventions he focused on the role of wood in delivering the Green Deal objectives, including the climate change mitigation commitment.

“European policies aimed at improving the environmental performance of the building sector, such as the forthcoming Renovation Wave Strategy and the Sustainable Built Environment Strategy, should take the reduction of whole-life carbon at their centre”, added Dr. Norton.

Research proves that increasing the use of wood in construction and in products such as furniture, cabinets, flooring, doors and window frames offers a significant opportunity to reduce emissions. This answers the need of designers and architects, who are more and more being called upon to balance functionality and cost objectives with reduced environmental impact.

In the production phase, wooden houses require less energy than houses built with functionally equivalent materials. Comparative analysis show that a wood-based construction allows to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40-50 %, excluding the carbon storage effect. As for the demolition phase, buildings should be designed to maximize the recovery and reuse of materials and components. In this respect wood gives the opportunity to recover doors, windows, and other elements that can be used again in new construction or remodelling. Reclaimed wood is primarily used in the manufacture of durable goods, and whatever is left over can be transferred to energy or heat generation. Additionally, using wood applications in the renovation of existing buildings can contribute significantly to the sustainable urban redevelopment. The renovation of building covers such as façades and roofs, with highly insulated wooden components, can reduce the transmission heat losses and related heating energy demand of existing buildings significantly.

To learn more about the contribution of wood for a sustainable and circular economy, download our booklet: [Wood: Building the Bioeconomy](#).

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