

EU ADVOCACY

Focus on the main EU ongoing dossiers

This bi-monthly newsletter aims at providing an overview on some selective EU ongoing topics that are of primary interests for the woodworking industries. In order to have a comprehensive overview of the different issues, members are invited to read the correlated circular letters containing detailed updates.

Enjoy the reading!

The CEI-Bois & EOS Team

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

At the beginning of May, our Secretary General, Silvia Melegari, represented CEI-Bois and EOS in New York at the 20th United Nations Forum on Forests, championing the vital role of the European wood industries in advancing global forest goals and, in doing so, helping to deliver on broader climate and sustainability targets.

Across high-level meetings and side events, her key message was clear: *“Wood is essential to building a circular, climate-positive, and resilient bioeconomy: renewable, low carbon, versatile and a durable carbon sink”*

 [Read our press release](#)

JULY 2025

Informative bi-monthly newsletter
by CEI-Bois & EOS



WHAT'S NEW

EUDR

Meeting with the Cabinet of EVP Dombrovskis

On 1 July, a meeting was held with the Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis to clarify the current status of the EUDR dossier.

During the discussion, the Cabinet confirmed that the FAQs and guidelines related to the EUDR do not have formal legislative authority and carry no legal weight in the context of litigation or regulatory scrutiny. As such, they cannot be relied upon as definitive proof of compliance with the legal obligations established by the EUDR.

For a more detailed understanding of the meeting's outcomes, please feel free to contact the Secretariat.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

CEI-BOIS

CEI-Bois held its General Assembly on 10 and 11 June in Helsinki.

On this occasion, it reaffirmed its role as the united voice of the European Woodworking industries at a time when EU policymakers are accelerating their focus on industrial Competitiveness and preparing the post-2030 climate and circular economy agenda.

In a programme full of inspiration, collaboration and momentum for the future of wood in Europe, members had the unique opportunity to explore Finnish Forestry with top experts in the field and plants trees, to visit Stora Enso's impressive wooden headquarters, to explore a multi-storey wooden apartment complex under construction and to engage in deeply enriching conversations, full of inspiration for what lies ahead.

The GA endorsed the Working Group Chairs for the 2025–2028 mandate

- **Sustainability:** *Mr Richards (Stora Enso, Wood Products Division)*
- **Construction:** *Mr Lechner (Association of the Austrian Wood Industries)*
- **R&D:** *Mr Elvnert (FTP)*
- **Social Affairs:** *Ms Steinwall (Swedish Association of Industrial Employers)*
- **Trade:** *Mr King (SCA Products)*

The GA also elected Mr Henrik Söderström (Metsä Wood) to the Board.

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) Read our press release](#)



EOS

EOS held its General Assembly on 27 May in Vienna, coinciding with the Evergreen Prize ceremony celebrating innovation in the forest-based industries.

Highlights

- **New members:** EOS welcomed Filiera Legno (Italy) and Forest Industries Ireland to its growing network.
- **New leadership:** Tommi Sneck (Koskisen Oyj, Finland) was elected President, joined by Ernest Schilliger (VP Softwood) and Maria Kiefer-Polz (VP Hardwood), alongside a renewed Board.
- **Key priorities:** Under Tommi Sneck's leadership, EOS will focus on EU initiatives like LULUCF and nature credits and reinforce wood's role in Europe's green transition.

Market Insights

Global expert Russ Taylor shared trends affecting global timber markets, emphasising the need for European producers to stay agile amid North American volatility and slow Chinese recovery.

2024/2025 Annual Report

The EOS Report confirms a 1% increase in European sawnwood production and cautiously optimistic forecasts for the rest of 2025.

Next Stop: Oslo

Don't miss the International Softwood Conference on 22–23 October 2025 in Oslo, with EOS, ETTF, and Treindustrien. Five study tours and two days of high-level discussions await: www.iscevent2025.com

[!\[\]\(291e070cef6c4d5e78fefe4696ef53be_img.jpg\) Read our press release](#)



CONSTRUCTION

EPBD IMPLEMENTATION

Commission support package

On 30 June, the European Commission published a package of various documents in support of the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

Comprising a Delegated Regulation, an Implementing Regulation, and a comprehensive set of Guidance documents, the package offers practical guidance as EU countries look to transpose the directive into national law by May 2026.

Specifically, the following documents have been published:

- Delegated Regulation revising the methodological framework for calculating cost-optimal levels;
- Implementing Regulation establishing common templates for the transfer of information from national databases to the EU Building Stock Observatory;
- Communication approving the content of the Notice providing Guidance on the recast EPBD, covering a wide range of topics.

CEI-Bois Members are strongly encouraged to carefully read the relevant documents and share with the Secretariat any concerns or positive insights they might have.

STRUCTURAL TIMBER AND WOOD-BASED PANELS

Second meeting of CPR Acquis Subgroup

On 24 June, CEI-Bois and several of its Members (in their capacity of representatives of the national governments of the EU Member States) participated in the second meeting of the CPR Acquis Subgroup on Structural Timber and Wood-based Panels. Under the guidance of Mr Oscar Nieto (DG GROW), the participants discussed in detail the list of timber construction product families that should fall under the scope of the new CPR, as well as the relevant harmonised standards and European Assessment Documents underpinning these products.

This work forms the so-called Milestone 1 (definition of the scope of the product family). In addition to the need to update outdated standards and establish new ones for the more established timber products, the EC also mentioned the possibility to tackle the standardisation of modular elements containing wood, as well that of recovered wood (only if there is a real market need). The Commission is receiving further comments on Milestone 1 until 30 September.

The next meeting is expected to take place in October, when additional Milestone 1 comments will be addressed and when a presentation of the preliminary draft on Milestone 3 (preparation of the technical content) is also foreseen.



CONSTRUCTION

EUROPEAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN

CEI-Bois contribution to a Call for Evidence

On 3 June, CEI-Bois submitted its contribution to the EC Call for Evidence for the European Affordable Housing Plan. Welcoming the initiative, CEI-Bois underlined its potential to bring about a long overdue wave of new affordable and sustainable construction as the main answer to alleviating the EU's housing crisis. To ensure the success of this effort, three overarching principles should guide policymakers in this process:

- The affordability and sustainability of housing must go hand in hand, in line with the EU's existing climate neutrality ambitions.
- Priority should be given to reducing the housing supply gap via new construction.
- Revitalising the construction ecosystem is key, and requires overcoming financial regulatory, and standardisation-related obstacles.

CEI-Bois clearly expressed the desire of the European woodworking industries to contribute to this vision by proposing 2 solutions to increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable housing:

- Advancing the use of wood in construction.
- Mainstreaming industrialised construction, in particular offsite timber construction.

A copy of this contribution was shared also with Mr Oscar Nieto from DG GROW, in anticipation of the upcoming public consultation on the European Strategy for Housing Construction, where CEI-Bois also intends to submit an official reply. CEI-Bois furthermore shared the document with Members of the EP Special Committee on the Housing Crisis in the European Union (EP HOUS), as they are currently preparing an own-initiative report on the Housing crisis in the EU with the aim of proposing solutions for decent, sustainable and affordable housing.

On 30 June, the EC appointed the Members of the Housing Advisory Board, which met for the first time on that same day to look at the broader issue of lowering energy bills and making housing more sustainable and affordable.

 [More information](#)

CEI-Bois Task Force on EU Affordable Housing

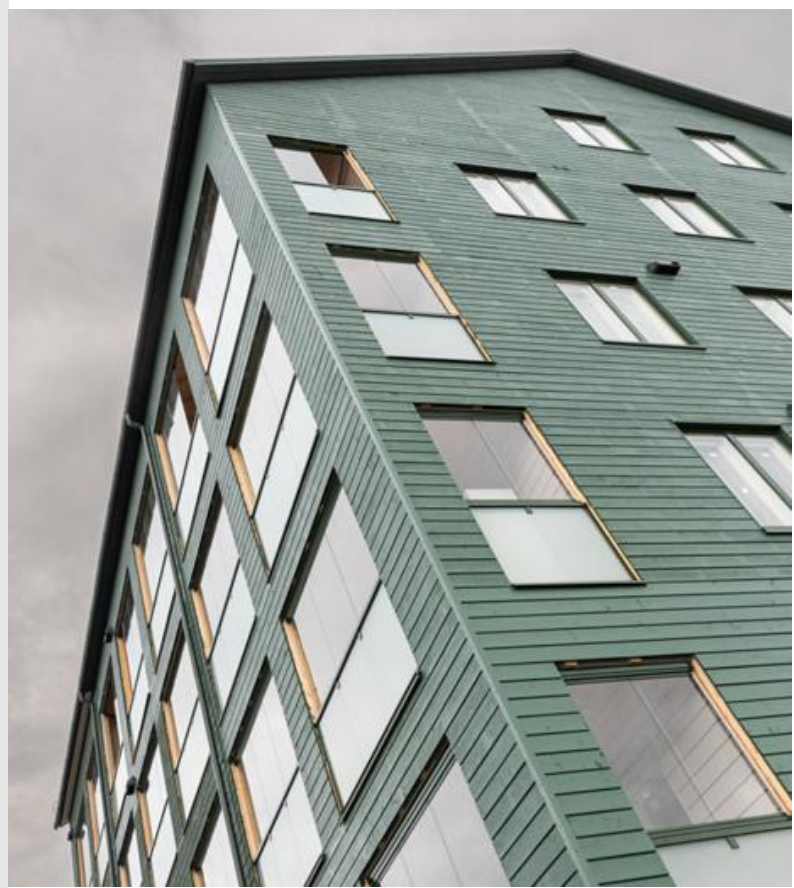
In June, a dedicated Task Force on EU Affordable Housing was established within the CEI-Bois Construction Working Group and, as per the decision taken by the CEI-Bois Board, Mr Kalle Ikonen was appointed as Chair.

The aim of the Task Force is to monitor and proactively engage with the development of the EU Affordable Housing Plan, ensuring that the voice of the wood sector is heard and that wood-based construction is prominently represented in future policy and funding frameworks.

This Task Force will work in close coordination with the Chair and the Members of the Construction Working Group, and its activities will be fully aligned with the broader strategic priorities of the Working Group.

Collaboration and mutual support will be key to ensuring a strong and unified sectoral response.

The first meeting of the new Task Force is taking place online on 5 September, from 10:00 CET.



Construction Product Europe

CEI-Bois participation to CPR and Sustainability WG, Workshop on Circularity, and GA

On 27 May, CEI-Bois attended the physical meeting of Construction Product Europe's CPR WG.

On 4 June, CEI-Bois also participated in CPE's Sustainability WG, which was followed by a Workshop on Circularity.

While all three meetings consisted of several relevant presentations, possibly the most important updates came from Mr Oscar Nieto (DG GROW) on several construction-related topics and from Dr Florian Flachenecker (DG ENV) on the upcoming Circular Economy Act (CEA), with a particular focus on circular construction.

The main topics covered over the two days included among many others:

- The upcoming European Construction Strategy
- The upcoming European Affordable Housing Plan
- The ongoing CPR Acquis process
- Assessment of environmental sustainability under the new CPR
- Delegated Acts under the new CPR
- The upcoming Circular Economy Act

On 5 June, CEI-Bois also attended CPE's General Assembly.

SUSTAINABILITY

Joint Statement of the EU Forest-based Value Chain on the Upcoming EU 2040 Climate Target

Together with other forest-based industry stakeholders, CEI-Bois and EOS co-signed a statement on the EU 2040 Climate Target, seeking to reduce GHG emissions across the EU by 90% compared to 1990.

The document calls for an enabling EU climate policy framework which duly considers the uncertainty of climate change impacts on forests, does not set short-term uncertain policy targets disconnected from long-term thinking of forest management decisions, and aims to deploy the potential of the forest-based bioeconomy. It underlines that the European forest-based value chain can and should contribute to the goals of the wider EU climate policy framework. Our sector must be a key part of the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy, promoting competitiveness through sustainably managed forests, covering from short to long-lived forest-based products across the forest-based value chain.

 [Read the Joint Statement](#)



Hardwood Plywood from China

Commission discloses provisional duty rates

In October, we reported that **the EU launched an anti-dumping investigation into Chinese hardwood plywood imports**. Specifically, the product subject to this investigation is plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood other than bamboo and okoumé, each ply not exceeding 6 mm thickness, with at least one outer ply of tropical wood or non-coniferous wood, of species specified under subheadings 4412 31, 4412 33 and 4412 34, whether or not coated or surface-covered.

On 6 June, the EC has confirmed the introduction of provisional duties. The rates of the provisional anti-dumping duty expressed on the CIF Union border price, customs duty unpaid, is as follows:

- For the company: Pizhou Jiangshan Wood Co., Ltd: 25.1%
- All other imports originating in the PRC: 62.4%

In view of the findings at provisional stage, the registration of imports should be discontinued. No decision on a possible retroactive application of anti-dumping measures has been taken at this stage of the proceeding.

Definitive measures will be published on December 2025.

EU/US

CEI-Bois and EOS advocate for free and unhindered trade

Without an agreement between the US and the EU by 9 July, tariffs on the imports of EU products entering the US and on US products entering the EU will significantly increase and/or will be introduced from mid-July, depending on the products. When it comes to wood products, the EU, without a deal with the US, will introduce tariffs on many US wood products. The US, meanwhile, is conducting a special investigation to determine whether many lumber products imports represent a threat to national security. At the moment, there are no tariffs on most EU wood products entering the US market, but tariffs could be introduced when the special investigation is concluded (by latest November 2025).

As CEI-Bois is advocating for free trade between the US and the EU, it sent a letter to DG Trade Commissioner, opposing the introduction of EU tariffs on American products back in April, which was acknowledged and answered by the Commission.

On June 22, CEI-Bois met the DG trade team negotiating with the US, reinforcing its message with the following arguments:

- The EU should not introduce tariffs on American wood products as this will likely trigger a US reaction and maybe orient the results of the special US investigation in favour of introducing tariffs on EU wood products.
- The EU should apply pressure on the US government to ensure that the special investigation will not result in the introduction of tariffs on wood products imports.

The EC committed to doing their utmost to ensure that the US special investigation does not result in tariffs on wood products and is open to remove from the European tariffs' list some US wood products.



RDI

1st Open Consultation for the FTP SIRA Update

In May, the Forest Technology Platform (FTP) launched the first Open Consultation for the update of its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SIRA).

FTP has begun the process of updating its core strategic documents (SIRA and the Vision) with the updated versions, Vision & SIRA 2040, scheduled for publication in 2027.

To ensure these documents reflect today's priorities and challenges across the forest-based sector, FTP gathered input from a wide range of stakeholders. The consultation ended on 30 June.

CEI-Bois members were encouraged to reply to the questionnaire here and to disseminate the consultation within their network.

Forest-based Sector
Technology Platform



SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social Dialogue Plenary Meeting

On 23 May, our Social Dialogue meeting for the woodworking industries brought together experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss key initiatives shaping our sector:

- **Industry Policy:** we explored EU initiatives impacting woodworking, including the Bioeconomy Strategy, Clean Industrial Deal, Affordable Housing Initiative, revision of the Public Procurement Directives and EUDR.
- **Education, Training & Skills:** insights were shared on the NEB Academy, WoodPoP and the Union of Skills.
- **The Forest Risk Facility platform,** supporting risk management in forestry to promote sustainable supply chains and safeguard our forests.
- **Social Dialogue:** valuable national practices were shared, like the Swedish Industrial Agreement, helping to strengthen sector cooperation and labour relations.
- **The Quality Jobs Roadmap:** the participants discussed the European Commission's roadmap and the related ongoing consultation.

PUBLICATION

EOS 2024/2025 Annual Report

EOS released its Annual Report on the occasion of its annual General Assembly.

From the forests to the sawmill, from EU policy to global trade flows, this year's report tells the story of a resilient, forward-looking European wood sector navigating a world in transition.

What's inside?

- Analysis of forests and raw material supply in the European Union
- Global Sawnwood markets
- Special focus on the European parquet industry
- Highlights from EOS' advocacy work, trade updates, and growing cooperation

 [Read the Annual Report](#)



EVENTS

Bioeconomy

Stakeholders Dialogue on the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy

On 16 May, Silvia Melegari had the honour to join Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and Competitive Circular Economy, at the Stakeholders Dialogue on the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

As the European Commission shapes the New EU Bioeconomy Strategy for a sustainable, resilient, and circular Europe, CEI-Bois and EOS proudly highlighted the essential role of wood and wood-based products in delivering on the EU's climate and Competitiveness goals.

CEI-Bois and EOS welcomed the Commissioner's recognition of the bioeconomy's potential and reaffirmed our sector's commitment to scaling sustainable wood solutions.



Communications

On 25 June, our colleague Paul Brannen was speaking at the Annual Workshop & Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Forests Communicators' Network in Edinburgh.

The speakers shared insights on the future of forests in the face of climate and biodiversity challenges.

For Paul, this was an opportunity to urge communicators to start with the problem, climate change, and show how forests and wood-based solutions are part of the answer.

A clear invitation to communicate the role of forests, trees and wood in a sustainable future with clarity and purpose.

Wood availability

On 28 May, CEI-Bois Chair Sampsa Auvinen, was speaking at "Forestry for the Future: Uniting Stakeholders for Climate Action and Sustainable Growth" in Riga.

On this occasion, he stressed that wood availability in Europe is becoming increasingly uncertain. Climate challenges like drought, pests, and fires are only part of the picture. Market destabilisation from salvage logging and low-grade supply is another. And, increasingly, well-meaning but unbalanced legislation risks overlooking the need for a secure, sustainable raw material base.

He therefore reminded the audience that, in order to reach our climate and circular economy goals, production forests must be part of the solution, not treated as part of the problem.



LULUCF

On 14 May, CEI-Bois and EOS took part in the stakeholder evaluation workshop of the LULUCF Regulation in Brussels, with the aim of sharing first-hand feedback from across Europe.

Our message was loud and clear: *"sustainable forest management and harvested wood products are part of the climate solution, not the problem."*

Wood is a powerful ally in boosting carbon storage and plays a critical role in maintaining healthy, resilient forests. Rising complexity, plummeting investment confidence, and serious concerns about the future availability of raw materials, all of which risk derailing Europe's bioeconomy ambitions and climate goals.

WOODPOP

COMMUNICATIONS

On 27 May, our colleague François Sougneux had the opportunity to take part in the “Framing the Future: Visual Strategies for a Positive Forestry Narrative” workshop in Brussels, a joint initiative of WoodPoP and the UNECE/FAO Forests Communicators' Network.

The workshop focused on how powerful imagery and storytelling can shape public perceptions of forests and sustainable wood use. The participants developed a set of guidelines for government agencies, international organisations, and NGOs on how to avoid fueling misconceptions using negative imagery and messages and, instead, build a positive narrative around forestry, including wood production.

The guidelines developed as the outcome of this workshop will be shared with partners and made available on the website of the Forests Communicators' Network and the WoodPoP homepage.

AWARD



In 2026, the European Wood Policy Platform will launch a new award celebrating outstanding achievements in timber architecture projects that demonstrate innovation, sustainability, aesthetics and inclusivity, aligning with the principles of the New European Bauhaus.

And you can choose the name of the Award that will celebrate Europe's timber architecture. Three inspiring names have been shortlisted:

- **Arbor:** tree in Latin
- **Dara:** the Celtic knot, represents the tree and root system of the sacred oak
- **Sophia:** from the Greek word wisdom

 [Cast your vote](#)

POLICY BRIEF

As skill requirements evolve and its ageing workforce is leaving the field, the wood-based industry is working to ensure it has the talent and expertise needed to play its role as a key driver of the green transition.

In this context, the WoodPoP technical working group on Education and Vocational Training just published a Policy Brief calling for strategic investment in skills and education and setting out a roadmap to transform the sector through:

- Modernised vocational education and training (VET)
- Pan-European recognition of skills and microcredentials
- Partnerships in education
- Inspiring youth
- Building on strong foundations

The WoodPoP members call for financial and non-financial support at national and EU levels to build a resilient, dynamic workforce, capable of meeting the climate and construction challenges of tomorrow.

 [Read the press release](#)

 [Read the Policy Brief](#)

