



# FEFPEB PRESS RELEASE

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## **FEFPEB plans future response to regulatory challenges**

The European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB) has announced plans to strengthen the organisation's response to growing political, environmental and regulatory challenges facing the sector.

In consultation with its European wooden pallet and packaging organisation members, the federation is working on a strategy to help the industry better tackle increasing legislative obligations and consolidate FEFPEB's position as the recognised voice of the sector in Europe and beyond.

FEFPEB's future structure and direction was among the items discussed at FEFPEB's spring meeting in Porto, which was hosted by the Portuguese Association of Wood and Furniture Industries (AIMMP) at the InterContinental Porto - Palácio das Cardosas during the spring.

FEFPEB Secretary General Fons Ceelaert said: "Since FEFPEB was founded in 1946, it has played a vital role in representing wooden pallet and packaging manufacturers across Europe. Through FEFPEB's committees and working groups, it has worked to ensure policymakers understand our business when forming legislation; to coordinate our industry's response to developments in international trade; and to communicate the all-round environmental and economic benefits of wooden pallets and packaging.

"FEFPEB has represented the industry on issues that include international phytosanitary regulations and ISPM 15, circular economy policy, packaging legislation, and sustainability requirements. Through our Packaging from Nature campaign, we have also worked to raise awareness of the important contribution that wooden pallets and packaging make to the European economy and the environment.

“As the regulatory and political landscape becomes increasingly complex, it is essential that FEFPEB builds on the past eighty years of work to remain a strong, united European organisation, and evolves to best represent our members’ businesses into the future.”

### **Spring meeting**

Opened by FEFPEB President Rob van Hoesel, FEFPEB’s spring meeting took place in April, with speakers giving an overview of the increasingly complex operating environment facing the wooden packaging sector.

This included:

- Nikhil Varghese, Director Circular Economy at DGA Group, provided an update on FEFPEB advocacy on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR);
- Brent McClendon, CEO and President of Woodpack Global, presented the organisation’s international goals and its recent rebrand from NWPCA;
- Luis Rochartre Álvares, postgraduate in sustainability at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, who gave a presentation on the European economy; and
- A presentation on sustainability by Francisco Jaime Quesado, economist and manager from the University of Porto

President Rob van Hoesel and Secretary General Fons Ceelaert gave an overview of FEFPEB’s initial thinking about future strategy, and invited members to engage with the development of the strategy as detailed proposals are progressed during the course of 2026.

Ceelaert also gave a summary of the status of EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), including newly published guidance and FAQs, while Dominic Weaver of 12 Communications gave an overview of FEFPEB’s public relations activities over the past year.

The meeting was also given a preview of the 73rd FEFPEB Congress – titled *Wood packaging in a resilient Europe* - which will be held from 30 September to 2 October 2026 in Båstad, Sweden, and hosted by Swedish Wood.

The bi-annual large-scale congress will welcome delegates from the European pallet and packaging industry for three days of networking, industry updates and discussions, and social events. The programme will include company visits, industry presentations and discussions on market developments, sustainability, circular economy policy and the wider economic and geopolitical factors affecting the sector.

Confirmed speakers for the congress include Viveka Beckeman, CEO of Swedish Forest Industries; Christian Nielsen, Market Analyst at Swedish Wood and the Swedish Forest Industries Federation; Nikhil Varghese, Senior Associate for Circular Economy at DGA; and geopolitical analyst Björn Fägersten.

You can find more details about this year's FEFPEB congress at:

<https://congress-fefpeb-2026.event-informatie.nl/>

**Notes:**

- The European Federation of Wooden Pallet & Packaging Manufacturers (Fédération Européenne des Fabricants de Palettes and Emballages en Bois – FEFPEB) represents European national timber packaging associations, including the pallet, lightweight packaging and industrial packaging sectors. It was established in 1946.
- It is a not for profit organisation, whose objectives include promotion of timber packaging and representing the interests of the European wooden pallet and packaging industry.
- National professional associations of wooden pallet and packaging manufacturers are full members of FEFPEB.
- Other companies involved in the industry, including suppliers of timber and timber blocks, machines and equipment are associated or individual members.
- The major European pallet pools (including EPAL, CHEP, LPR, IPP Logipal and PRS) are also part of FEFPEB.
- More information about FEFPEB at: [www.fefpeb.eu](http://www.fefpeb.eu)