European Federation of Wooden pallet and Packaging Manufacturers

FEFPEB Newsletter April 2026



1. PPWR update / New FAQ and Guidance Document published

The European Commission has adopted two documents aimed at supporting the implementation of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR):
Guidance document
Frequently asked questions document (FAQ)
The publication of the two documents comes ahead of the PPWR's application on 12 August 2026.
The Commission clarifies its interpretation of several provisions, notably the **definitions of packaging, manufacturer, and importer.**
Regarding **labelling harmonisation**, the document specifies that Member States will no longer be allowed to maintain national labels alongside harmonised EU labels **after 12 August 2028** (or 2029 for reusable packaging). However, it does not resolve key practical questions concerning these labels (e.g. colour, wording), which remain of particular interest to industry.
Although **non-binding**, the Commission underlines that the guidance has "legal value insofar as it clarifies the intention of the Regulation and how its implementation should be interpreted."
In a parallel development, it is worth noting that the Commission adopted at the end of February 2026 the Delegated Decision that exempts certain economic operators using pallet wrappings and straps from the 100% reuse requirements for these packaging formats. This decision is now under a 2-month scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council.

Next steps
The FAQ and Guidance document are to be analyzed by our Brussels partner DGA and the members of the FEFPEB Task Force PPWR.
Further to our clarification request on the Commission draft notice, FEFPEB was able to speak **Dr W. Trunk of DG Environment** at a stakeholders event in Brussels end of March.
TF PPWR chairman Marcus Kirschner handed over to mr Trunk a FEFPEB position statement on labelling (click here) and was able to highlight the specific properties of wooden packaging in a B2B environment.
FEFPEB invited mr Trunk and his team for a company visit and is maintaining contacts with Brussels.
Next to **that GROW International in co-ordination with FEFPEB issued a request to exempt light weight packaging from the re use targets (click here)**

2. EUDR developments

On 24 March 2026, CEI-Bois attended the 40th meeting of the Deforestation Platform, during which the European Commission provided an update regarding the upcoming EUDR April package.
For your information, please find attached of summary of the main points presented and discussed in the meeting (click here).
Please be informed that the EU Commission has prepared an updated version of the EUDR supply chain infographic that you can download here:

EUDR supply chain infographics (3rd edition) - Publications Office of the EU

This revised version updates the original document, reflecting the amendments agreed by the co-legislators in December 2025 and their effect on obligations for various actors across the supply chain.

Interesting to note that the obligations for manufacturers and repairers of wooden packaging have not undergone changes, as we are called now downstream operators no DDS have to be carried out.

This month the EUDR update is expected and then final conclusions can be drawn.

3. Report State of Europe's Forests 2025

FORESTEUROPE, the Pan-European voluntary high-level forest policy process, released his flagship report State of Europe's Forests 2025, which is published every five years.
This is an important publication because its findings are extensively used in European policymaking.
Please find attached the report summary with its most relevant information (click here).

Key messages from the point of view of raw material to the wood industry:

- Forest area amounts to more than 232 million ha in FOREST EUROPE countries and accounts for 35% of the total land area.
- The total growing stock of European forests amounts to around 38 300 million m³, of which about 79% is located in forests available for wood supply.**Over the last 30 years, growing stock increased by almost 1.3% per year, but in the last five years only by 0.3%, due to a combination of factors such as slowing down of forest area expansion, the age structure of forests, increasing utilisation rates, and forest damage.**
- About 43% of European forests are predominantly coniferous, 40% are predominantly broadleaved, and the remainder is mixed, with regional variation. **Over the period 1990 to 2025 growing stock of broadleaved species increased at a faster annual rate (around 2%—4%) than that of coniferous species (around 1%—2%)**
- In European forests, wood resources continue to be used sustainably - **annual fellings amount to about 81% of the net annual increment**.Between 1990 and 2020, both wood increment and harvest volumes rose substantially, by about 19% and 46% respectively. The utilisation of net annual increment increased from roughly 60% to 81% at the pan-European level, with the highest rates observed in Northern and Central-West Europe, reflecting higher utilisation rates but **still sustainable harvest levels** across most regions. However, **increased cuttings can result from salvage loggings and need to regenerate mature stands in certain regions of Europe.**
    - In parallel, total wood removals based on FAOSTAT data suggest a decline in Europe-wide removals after the 2020 peak, reinforcing the idea that the 2020 high point should not be interpreted as a new steady state.

Best regards,

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Secretary general

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