FORDAQ FORUM
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Sustainable Growth: the contribution of the EU Wood Industry

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CEI-Bois

CEI-Bois is the European Confederation of woodworking industries founded in 1952.

The primary goal of CEI-Bois is to further the interests of the European wood sector and to this end it aims to influence EU policy-making.

CEI-Bois and its Members advocate for the further use of wood products & solutions.

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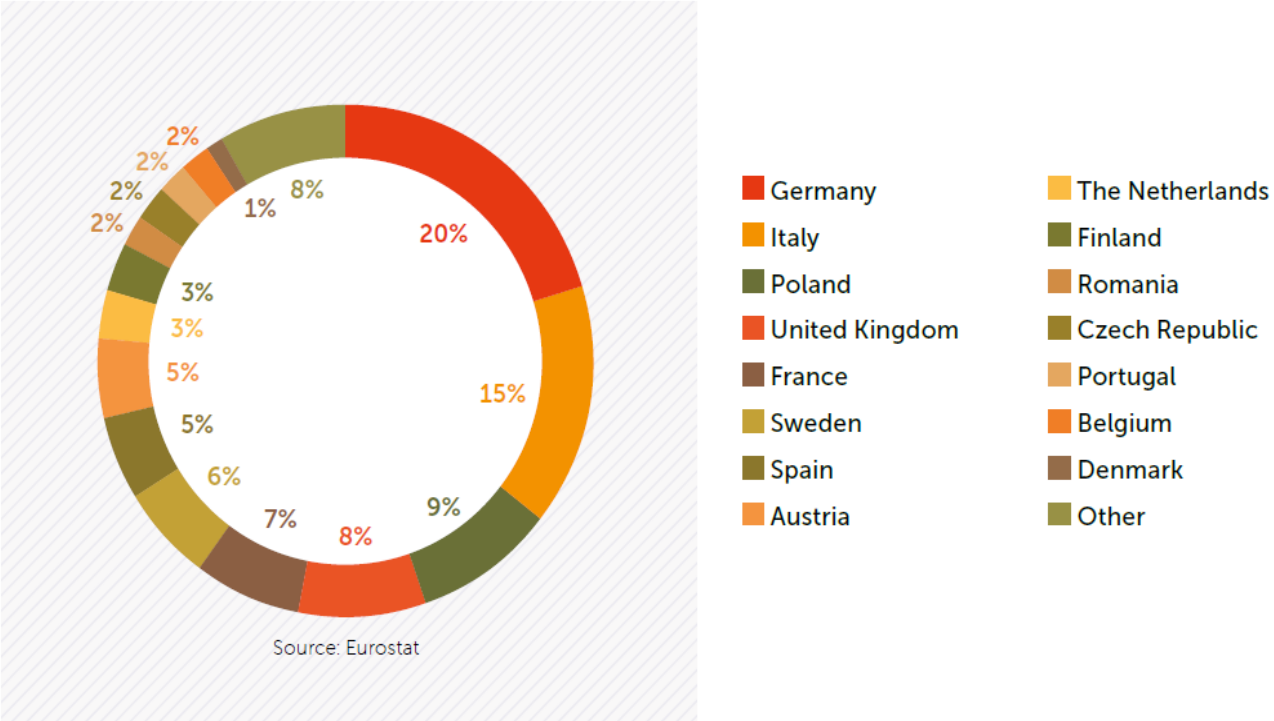
THE EUROPEAN WOODWOORKING INDUSTRIES (EU28)

- More than 180,000 companies in Europe (EU27+UK, NO and CH) mostly SMEs.

- The total production value of the woodworking industries in the European Union (EU) peaked in 2007 at 237 billion EUR before falling under 190 billion EUR in 2008 and 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis.

Furniture Sector not included.



- After reaching almost 230 billion EUR in 2017, the production value was close to 240 billion EUR in 2018.

Within the overall woodworking industries, Germany confirms its leading position thanks to a constantly increasing production value.

EOS EUROPEAN ORGANISATION OF THE SAWMILL INDUSTRY

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THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL & RECOVERY PLAN

The European Green Deal, one of the headline ambitions of the European Commission's work programme published on 29 January 2020, is a comprehensive and ambitious package of measures to achieve a sustainable green transition in the EU.

The Green Deal plays a central role in the EU recovery:

- structural reform & transition to more sustainable economies
- more diversified supply chains & more circular economy.

European Green Deal call under Horizon 2020:

- volume of around € 900 million, targeting practical results like demonstration projects over the next few years
- Projects will cover areas like zero-pollution, biodiversity and the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, climate, and circular economy. But there will also be projects related to the farm-to-fork strategy, energy, mobility and buildings.

GUIDANCE TO MEMBER STATES FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE PLANS

- **Renovation wave of residential buildings, social and affordable housing**, private or public buildings (with a focus on schools and hospitals), modernisation of district heating systems and land restoration.

- **Investments in circular economy and the bio-economy** (industrial symbiosis sites; incentivising circular business models and resources efficient production as well as activities based on service instead of ownership, repair and reuse activities; support of tools aimed at increasing sustainable consumption).

- **Mitigating measures for vulnerable households** accompanying investments to improve the energy efficiency of public and private housing. Investments in heating systems and social housing.

- **Investments in biodiversity and nature-based solutions** to increase resilience against natural disasters and climate change (restoration of ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, peatlands, free-flowing rivers and coastal ecosystems; improving infrastructure in protected areas and investing in nature-tourism; planting trees; greening urban spaces).
- **Investments in upgrading skills in construction** and other relevant sectors;

RENOVATION WAVE

Making the construction ecosystem fit to deliver sustainable renovation, based on circular solutions, use and reuse of sustainable materials, and the integration of nature-based solutions.

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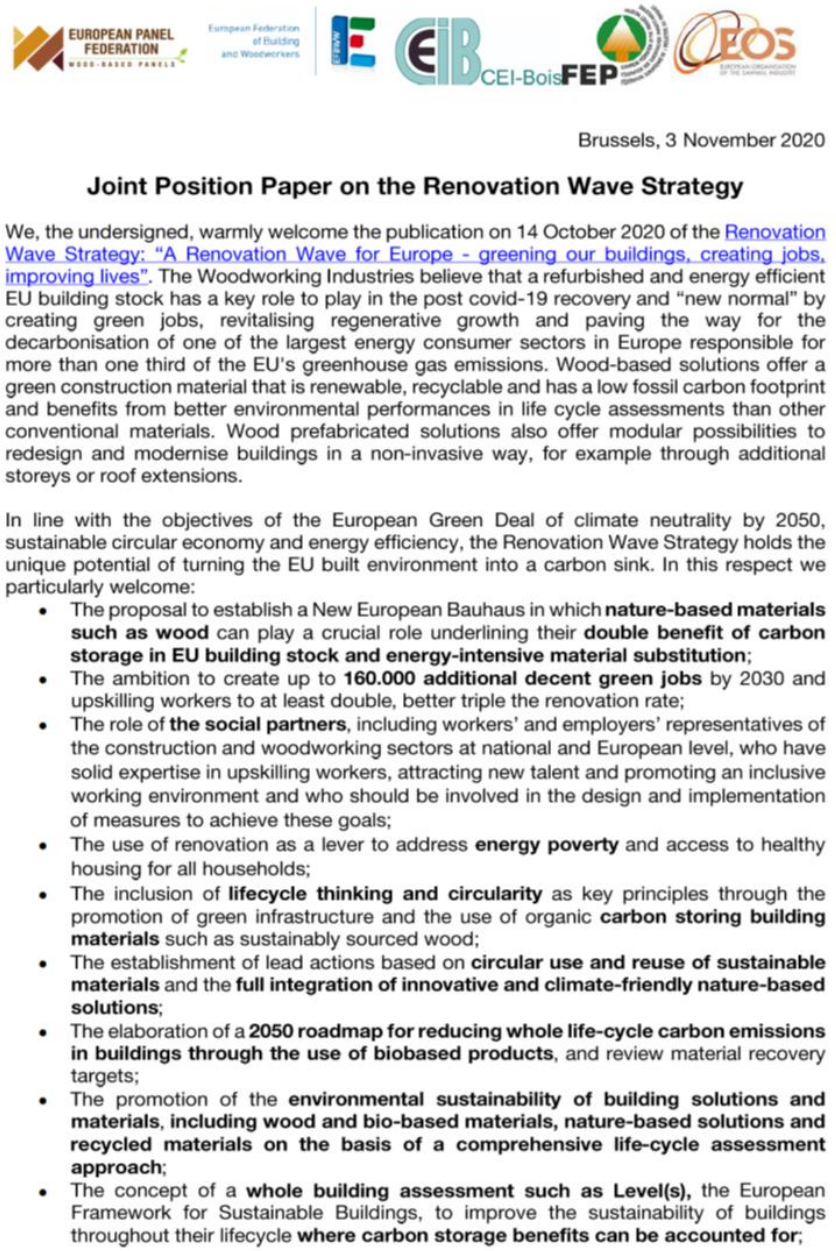
JOINT PAPER ON THE RENOVATION WAVE

The Renovation Wave Strategy holds the unique potential of turning the EU built environment into a carbon sink:

- The use of renovation as a lever to address **energy poverty** and access to healthy housing for all households;
- The inclusion of **lifecycle thinking and circularity** as key principles through the promotion of green infrastructure and the use of organic **carbon storing building materials** such as sustainably sourced wood;
- The revision of the Construction Product Regulation in line with the **sustainability performance of construction products**;
- The possible development of **green public procurement criteria** for public buildings related to lifecycle and climate resilience.



Brussels, 3 November 2020

Joint Position Paper on the Renovation Wave Strategy

We, the undersigned, warmly welcome the publication on 14 October 2020 of the Renovation Wave Strategy: "A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives". The Woodworking Industries believe that a refurbished and energy efficient EU building stock has a key role to play in the post covid-19 recovery and "new normal" by creating green jobs, revitalising regenerative growth and paving the way for the decarbonisation of one of the largest energy consumer sectors in Europe responsible for more than one third of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Wood-based solutions offer a green construction material that is renewable, recyclable and has a low fossil carbon footprint and benefits from better environmental performances in life cycle assessments than other conventional materials. Wood prefabricated solutions also offer modular possibilities to redesign and modernise buildings in a non-invasive way, for example through additional storeys or roof extensions.

In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal of climate neutrality by 2050, sustainable circular economy and energy efficiency, the Renovation Wave Strategy holds the unique potential of turning the EU built environment into a carbon sink. In this respect we particularly welcome:

- The proposal to establish a New European Bauhaus in which **nature-based materials such as wood** can play a crucial role underlining their **double benefit of carbon storage in EU building stock and energy-intensive material substitution**;
- The ambition to create up to **160.000 additional decent green jobs** by 2030 and upskilling workers to at least double, better triple the renovation rate;
- The role of **the social partners**, including workers' and employers' representatives of the construction and woodworking sectors at national and European level, who have solid expertise in upskilling workers, attracting new talent and promoting an inclusive working environment and who should be involved in the design and implementation of measures to achieve these goals;
- The use of renovation as a lever to address **energy poverty** and access to healthy housing for all households;
- The inclusion of **lifecycle thinking and circularity** as key principles through the promotion of green infrastructure and the use of organic **carbon storing building materials** such as sustainably sourced wood;
- The establishment of lead actions based on **circular use and reuse of sustainable materials** and the **full integration of innovative and climate-friendly nature-based solutions**;
- The elaboration of a **2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings through the use of biobased products**, and review material recovery targets;
- The promotion of the **environmental sustainability of building solutions and materials, including wood and bio-based materials, nature-based solutions and recycled materials on the basis of a comprehensive life-cycle assessment approach**;
- The concept of a **whole building assessment such as Level(s),** the European Framework for Sustainable Buildings, to improve the sustainability of buildings throughout their lifecycle **where carbon storage benefits can be accounted for**;

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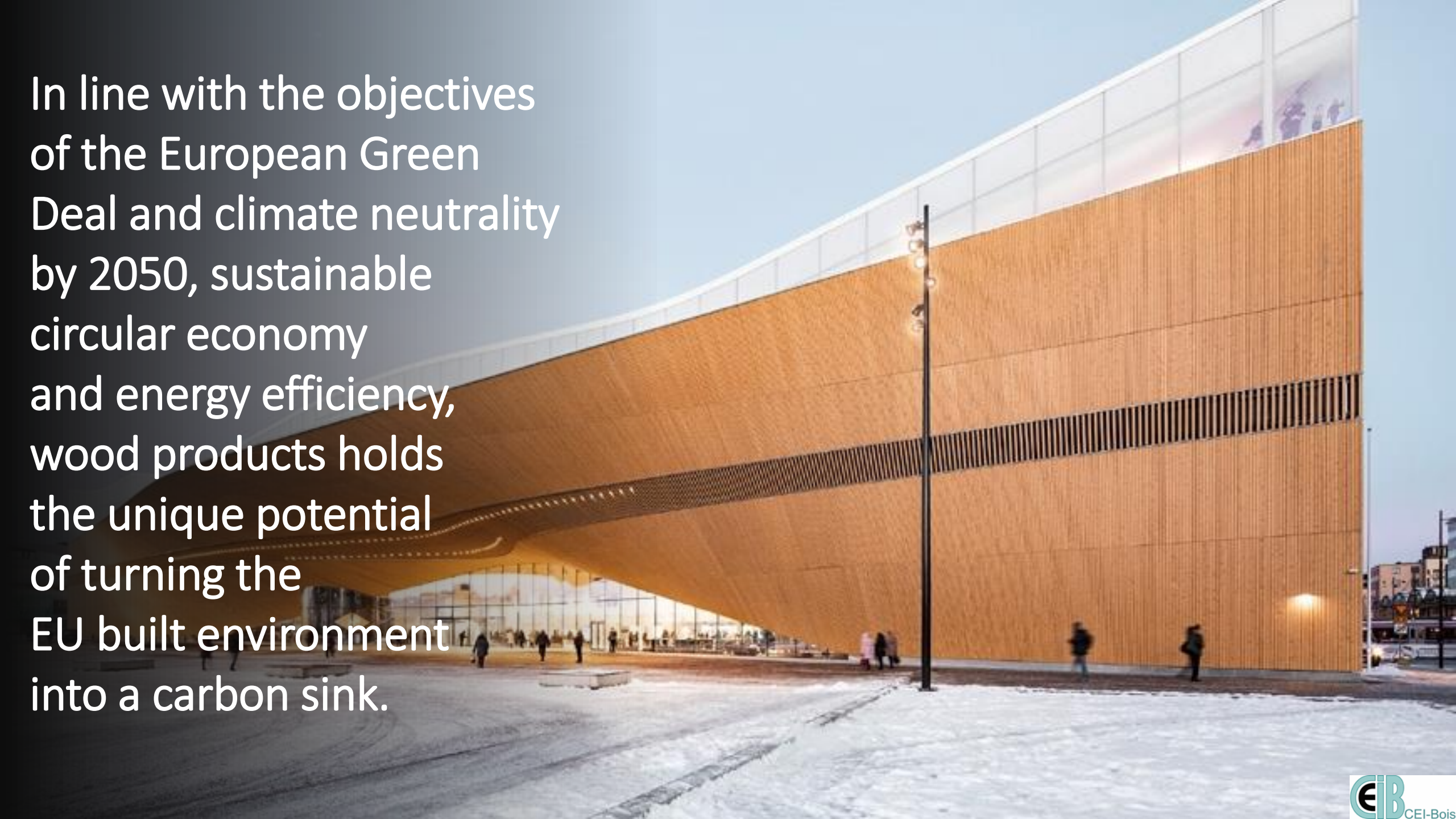
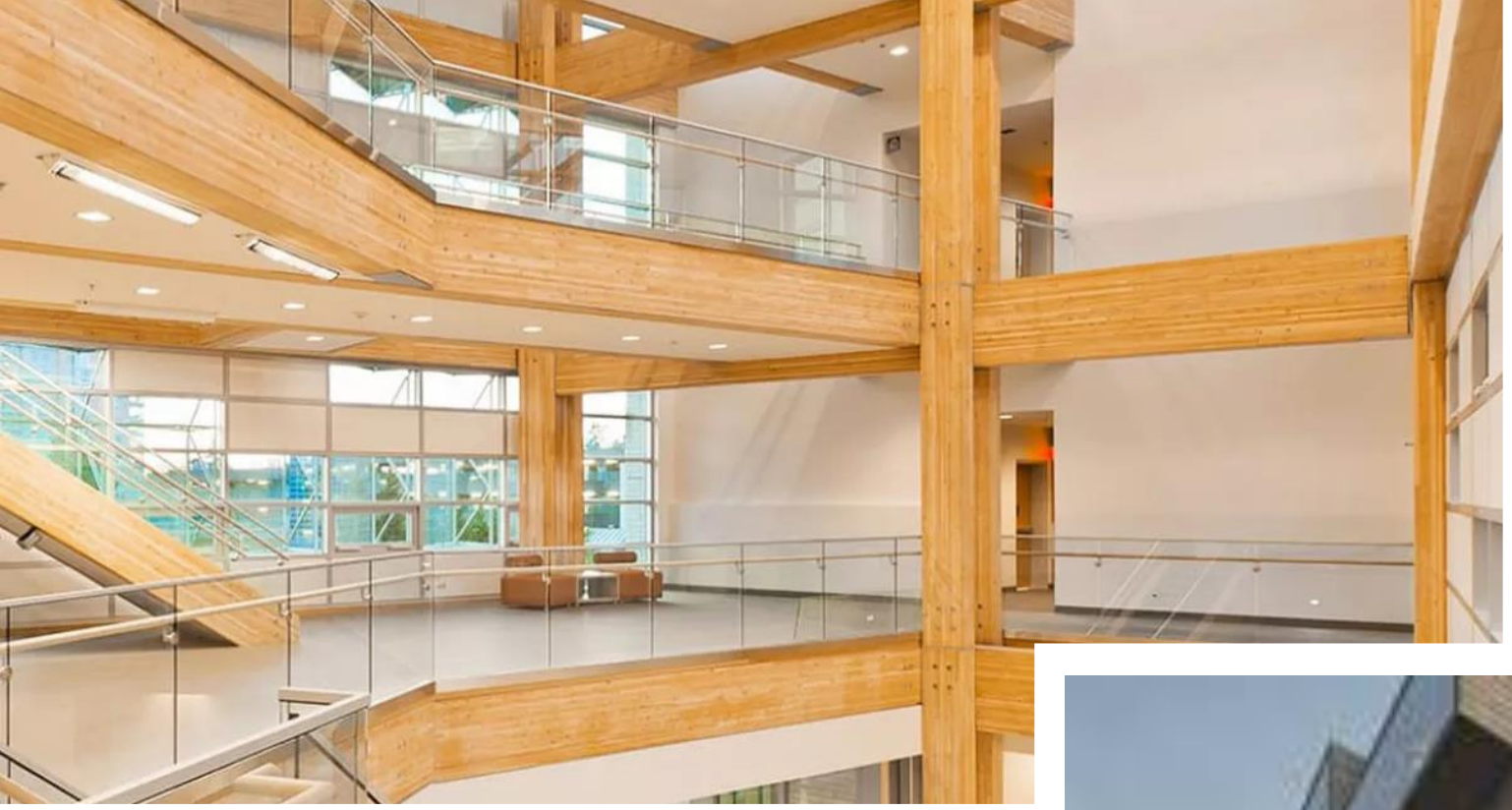


In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal and climate neutrality by 2050, sustainable circular economy and energy efficiency, wood products holds the unique potential of turning the EU built environment into a carbon sink.



Buildings in the EU are responsible for 40% of our energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions

Industrial prefabrication as well as the use of engineered wood products such as CLT and glulam make it possible to build buildings that are much taller and more durable and do not especially need high-quality logs.

Prefabricated wooden houses can be built much faster than other types of houses.

Wood Products

On behalf of DG CLIMA

Study on “How to incentivise the usage of wood in construction as a carbon sink – while ensuring that its harvest is sustainable”.

The project runs from September 2020 and it is expected to be completed by August 2021.

Expected results:

This investigation provided the following preliminary results:

- Create a reliable measure of the CO2 being captured in a wood-based construction product;
- To design a market-based carbon credit scheme incentivising the sustainable use of wood-based construction products.

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Unique tool for explaining in an easy and intuitive way the role of wood products in the development of a circular bio-economy.

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