EUROPEAN PANEL FEDERATION
WOOD-BASED PANELS

PRESS RELEASE

AGM 2023 in Santiago de Compostela

EPF reports 2022 results, 5 Strategic Directions highlights and re-elects Mr Martin Brettenthaler as Chairman and adds 2 new Board members

Brussels, 26 June 2023



On 21-23 June, the European Wood-based Panels Federation held its Annual General Meeting in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. EPF Iberian association ANFTA hosted the gatherings in majestic settings, combining both traditional and modern perspectives.

In association with *UNEmadera* and with the generous sponsorship of Dieffenbacher, Siempelkamp, BASF, Govi, AFRY, Huntsman and Berndorf Band, EPF proudly welcomed about 200 professionals and high-level guests from across Europe and beyond.

Final consolidated 2022 results

Production (million m³)	Countries	2022	2021	22/21	22/19
Particleboard	EU27+UK+EFTA	32.1	34.5	-6.9%	0.0%
MDF	EU27+UK+EFTA	12.5	13.8	-9.3%	-3.6%
OSB	EU27+UK+EFTA	6.4	7.2	-10.7%	-4.5%
Hardboard	EU27+EFTA	0.5	0.5	-4.4%	-2.2%
Softboard	EU27+EFTA	5.1	5.6	-8.9%	8.4%
Plywood	EU27	3.1	3.2	-2.5%	4.1%
Total Wood-Based Panels		**59.8**	**64.8**	**-7.8%**	**-0.4%**

2022 production fell by 7.8 % compared to 2021 and final numbers come close to the pre-crisis levels of 2019.

2022 was a year characterised by a relatively **strong first half**, followed by a **weaker second half**, caused by **softening user demand and falling consumer confidence, affecting construction, furniture, packaging and other markets.**

The outlook 2023 remains challenging, but with healthy long-term prospects for the natural, sustainable, climate positive WBP industry.

Highlights from EPF's 5 Strategic Directions

EPF was delighted to share 5 current advocacy highlights from its 5 SDs:

1. Heightened visibility of wood in New European Bauhaus (NEB)
2. Cascade use to be included in legislation for the first time (REDIII)
3. Increased political support for use of wood to rise from 45 % to > than 60 %
4. Successful outcome to projects 'New Standard' and 'E1 Compulsory' regulation
5. High level access coming from the Coalition for Circular Choices (4 million jobs in Europe)

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Re-election

EPF's General Assembly unanimously re-elected Mr Martin Brettenthaler, CEO of SWISS KRONO GROUP, for another 2-year term as Chairman.



'A vital EPF is now needed more than ever: On the one hand, wood-based panels offer key solutions to the global fight against climate change - the most important societal and economic challenge of our time. On the other hand, our industry is under threat: Our raw material is contested by other, often subsidised user groups, regulation and red-tape on all levels is steadily increasing and as an energy-intensive industry with global competition we are especially exposed to the unrealistic energy policies in several European countries.'

The General Assembly also nominated two additional Members to the Managing Board: Mr Baptiste de Sutter (Linex Panneaux, France) and Mr Jarosław Michniuk (Paged, Poland).



The next EPF AGM will take place on 19-21 June 2024 in Riga, Latvia, hosted by Latvijas Finieris.

For further information, please contact EPF Administration and Communications Officer:

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About EPF - the European Panel Federation has members in 30 European countries and represents the manufacturers of particleboard, MDF, OSB, hardboard, softboard and plywood. The EU wood-based panels industry has an annual turnover of about 25 billion euro and creates over 100,000 jobs directly.

Contact us at info@europanels.org.