Kindly hosted by
Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union

November 7, 2024, Brussels

Europe's wood sector as a driver for the green and digital transition of the built environment

Wood Policy and Innovation Conference



Date: 7 November 2024, 9:00 – 17:00 CET
Venue: Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union,
Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

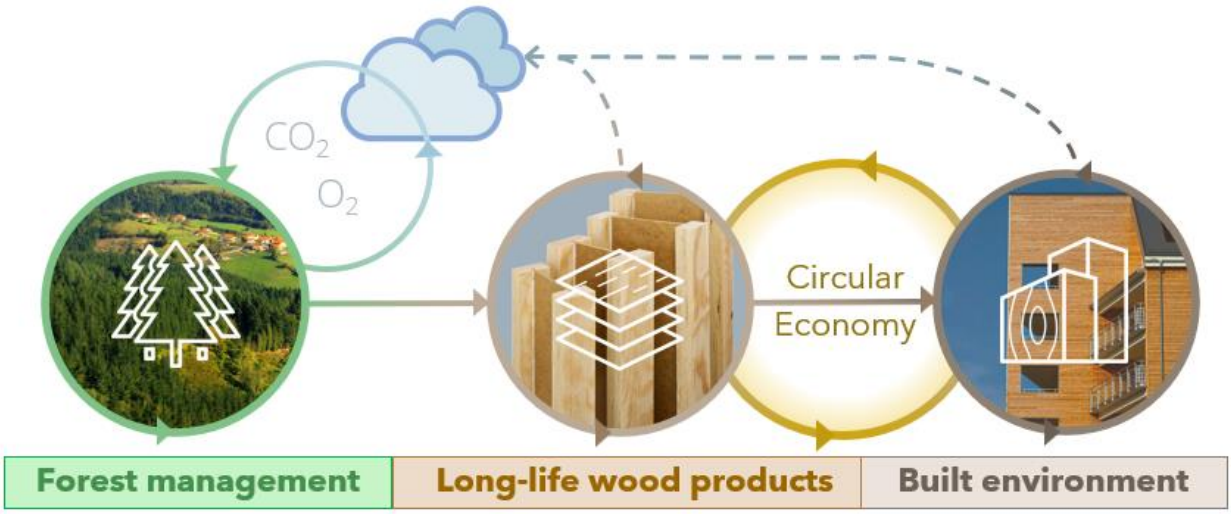
Co-organisers
Wood4Bauhaus Alliance | Bioregions | woodPoP European Wood Policy Platform | Holzcluster Steiermark

The conference highlights the vital role of the wood sector as a key driver of future competitiveness in housing and the climate debate, encouraging greater recognition and support from the new EU Commission and EU Parliament. It showcases the latest state-of-the-art in building design with wood and how the public sector can support more biobased construction to combat climate change. Members of the European Parliament and their staff, EC staff and experts, policy makers, and advocacy organisations are invited to join this policy discussion and networking event, in which about 150 participants will attend.

Why a European policy event about wood?

The European wood sector represents a combined direct and indirect economic weight of 17.5 million jobs, €1,114 billion turnover and 7% of GDP (FHP 2023). It is a major opportunity to strengthen a competitive, domestic sector: European companies are global leaders in sustainable construction products and buildings, pushing the limits of engineering with tremendous versatility. Wood architecture offers solutions for all types of buildings and decisive advantages for affordable housing and social benefits, in rural and urban areas. A pan-European policy coordination is needed.

Transforming cities into carbon sinks



The conference will highlight the important role of the wood sector for the ***Clean Industrial Deal***, Europe's ambitious policy goal towards becoming the first climate-neutral continent.

Wood products are one essential lever to decarbonise the built environment. Forests/ trees sequester carbon into durable material, which is engineered into long-lived building products (structural elements, furniture, flooring, windows, etc). Installed into buildings, these store the carbon for decades up to centuries. Their production and use save significant emissions compared to conventional, energy-intensive materials.

By upscaling wood construction, cities will be turned into large-scale carbon sinks, and the construction chain will become a carbon pump to extract GHG from the atmosphere. Through circular solutions and cascading use of materials, the carbon storage can be further prolonged.

Fully aligned with the **New European Bauhaus** principles, building and renovation with wood brings together ***beautiful*** architectural design, ***sustainable*** use of materials, and ***inclusive*** renewal of urban spaces and communities.

Join the conference to learn about how the wood sector emerges as a key player for combatting climate change and how countries and regions across Europe are encouraging and supporting this clean, just and competitive transformation of Europe!

Contact & Registration

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➢ **Pre-registration until 31 Oct 2024: wood4bauhaus.eu/conference-2024**

Conference programme

Part I: EU policy perspectives

Time	*Title, speaker*	
	Opening	
9:00 20 min	**Welcome to the Bavarian representation** Michael Hinterdobler, Director	
	Setting the scene: A competitive European wood sector addressing the future challenges *Moderators of the conference:* Uwe Kies, Secretary General of InnovaWood & Chair of Wood4Bauhaus Andreja Kutnar, Director/Professor, InnoRenew CoE & University of Primorska, Slovenia	
	Keynote speakers: Climate positive building design, excellence with wood	
9:20 40 min, 20 min each	**Fascination wood: the oldest material in the world has a bright future** Katharina Lehmann, CEO Blumer Lehmann, Switzerland	
	Sustainable architecture for zero-carbon buildings and cities Jakob Strømann-Andersen, Director of Innovation and Sustainability Henning Larsen, Denmark	
	Panel I: Innovation for a Competitive Wood Sector	
10:00 1h, short talks 8 min each	**Carbon Removal Certification Framework: the role of bio-based buildings** Sevim Aktas, Policy Officer European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), Belgium	

Time	*Title, speaker*	
	High-tech, innovative engineered wood products in global markets Christoph Kulterer, CEO Hasslacher Norica Timber, Austria	
	Innovation drivers in Estonia's prefabricated woodhouse sector Annika Kadaja, General Manager Woodhouse Estonia, Estonia	
	Recovery and recycling chains for circular wood products Veronique Hoflack, President & Vice Chair of EPF Unilin Panels, Belgium	
	Wood science for a sustainable future Paasi Aalto, Director NTNU Wood, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway	
11:00	***Networking coffee break***	
	Panel II: Policies and Instruments	
11:30 1h, short talks 8 min each	**Countries and regions fostering building with wood** Uwe Kies, Chair of W4B Alliance, InnovaWood *Introduction to the topic by the moderator*	
	Wood construction for sustainable and inclusive housing and public infrastructure: case of Austria Bruno Aschenbrenner, Member of the Styria Parliament, Mayor of St. Marein-Feistritz Land Steiermark (Styria)	
	Regional incentives to strengthen the wood sector: Galicia, Spain Jacobo Aboal Viñas, Director Regional Government of Galicia (Xunta), Agency for Forest Industry	
	Green Public Procurement and skills development: case of Slovenia Andreja Kutnar, Director/Professor InnoRenew CoE & University of Primorska	

Time	*Title, speaker*	
	Wood construction in Bavaria, Germany Michael Höcker, Forstrat Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism	
	Moderated Discussion	
12:30 30 min total, 10 min each	***Conclusions and Outlook*** **Just transition in the woodworking and construction sector** Tom Deleu, Secretary General European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW)	
	A pan-European wood policy for a strong future circular bioeconomy Georg Rappold, Head of Department 'Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation', Chair of WoodPoP Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria (BML)	
	Closing words & Overview of afternoon sessions	
13:00	***Lunch break***	

Part II: Parallel sessions

Session A
Governance and Policy
Best practices in public support tools and initiatives

Hosted by: Bioregions Facility and woodPoP



Session moderator: Inazio Martinez de Arano, European Forest Institute (EFI)

Time	*Title, speaker*
14:00	**Welcome**
14:05	*National best practices* **The Czech Wood Policy Programme** Tomáš Krejzar, Director Department for Forestry Policy and Economy, Ministry for Agriculture
	The Austrian Wood Initiative Mathias Deutz, Policy Officer Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
	The Swiss Wood Resource Policy Michael Reinhard, Head of Division Federal Office of the Environment, Forest Division
	Regional best practices **North Rhine Westphalia (NRW), Germany: Wood construction targets in social housing** Stefanie Wieland, Team leader Wood Industries Wald und Holz NRW
	Galicia, Spain: Public procurement guide Jacobo Aboal Viñas, Director Regional Government of Galicia (Xunta), Agency for Forest Industry
14:50	**Discussion:** Policy measures supporting wood construction and innovative solutions: Which measures are working well? Where is room for improvement?
15:05 – 15:15	**The European Wood Policy Platform. Exchange, Connect, Collaborate.** Veronika Juch, Coordinator of the WoodPoP Secretariat International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)













Session B
Reuse, Reclaim, Recycle
Circularity approaches to reduce and valorise waste wood

Hosted by Horizon project EcoReFibre

Session moderators:

Kris Wijnendaele, European Panel Federation (EPF)

Oliver Jancke, InnovaWood



Time	*Title, speaker*
14:00	**Post-consumer wood in Europe: qualities and future supply** Mark Irle, Senior Researcher ESB Ecole d'ingénieur des matériaux biosourcés
	Superpan Tech, a high-performance board for passive buildings from recycled wood Emma Romero, Architect / Head of construction solutions FINSA
	MDF recycling, closing the circle Geert Coudenys, R&D director Unilin Panels
	ZICLICK, a plug & go panel design system as a service Jacinto Seguí Mendez, Collaborative Development Director FINSA
	Reclaimed timber: business opportunity for the circular economy (SirkTRE & Drastic) Kristine Nore, Innovation Manager & Wendy Wuyts, CRO OMTRE
15:15	Closing of session











The project is funded under Horizon Europe.

EcoReFibre

Funded by the European Union

Session C
Innovative building products and systems for resource efficient, circular construction

Hosted by Horizon projects EUFORE and AEGIR
Session moderator: Javier Garcia Jaca, Tecnalia

Time	*Title, speaker*	
15:30	**Overview of strategies and innovations in the European wood sector** Javier Garcia Jaca & Vanesa Baño, Senior Researcher Tecnalia Research and Innovation & InnovaWood	
15:45	**High-tech, innovative engineered wood products in global markets** Christoph Kulterer, CEO Hasslacher Norica Timber	
16:00	**Speeding up the timber revolution through digital value chains** Hubert Rhomberg, CEO & Founder CREE Buildings	
16:15	**A flexible façade renovation system enhancing energy performance and circularity** Magdalena Zabek, Architect + Researcher Delft Technical University	
16:30	**WoodStock climate-smart wood project (announcement)** Liselotte de Ligne, Postdoctoral Researcher University of Gent – Woodlab	
16:35	**Q&A**	
16:45	Closing of session	

The projects are funded under Horizon Europe.

EUFORE AEGIR

Funded by the European Union

Session D

The New European Bauhaus Academy: Up- and re-skilling the sector's workforce with innovative trainings

Hosted by Horizon projects NEBA Alliance and digiNEB

Session moderator: Mike Burnard, University of Primorska & InnoRenew CoE

Time	*Title, speaker*	
15:30	**Architectural education: beautiful, sustainable, together** Roberto Cavallo, President European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), Belgium & TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment	
	The NEB Academy: A European Alliance for Innovative Training Hubs Andreja Kutnar, Director/Professor InnoRenew CoE & University of Primorska	
	Training of construction workers for the green transition (CoVE Habitable) Višnja Košćak, Manager for Internationalization Holzcluster Steiermark	
	The NEB Academy North Hub Camilla Berggren-Tarrodi, Project manager Research Institute of Sweden (RISE)	
16:45	Closing of session	

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New European Bauhaus Academy
Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking
Bio-based Industries Consortium
Co-funded by the European Union
DIGNEB
Funded by the European Union

Hosting organisations

Wood4Bauhaus Alliance is a coalition of the main EU wood sector umbrella organisations CEI-Bois, EPF, EOS and EFBWW, together with the InnovaWood network and the InnoRenew CoE, connecting research, industry and trade unions with the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The Alliance engages an open dialogue with all interested stakeholders to maximise the use of nature-based materials and sustainable building systems. The main objective is to raise awareness, strengthen policy dialogue and foster innovation in long-lived engineered wood products and hybrid, circular-by-design building solutions. The Alliance is chaired by InnovaWood.

BIOREGIONS is a knowledge-led platform dedicated to accelerating the development of sustainable and integrative forest-based circular bioeconomy. Bioregions members are Basque Country, Catalonia and North Rhine-Westphalia. The European Forest Institute (EFI) coordinates the Bioregions Facility.

WoodPoP - European Wood Policy Platform is an innovative policy dialogue platform to advance the sustainable use of wood. It is a dedicated forum for multilateral policy, knowledge and experience exchange between public and private actors from the wood sector for developing policy solutions, measures and recommendations to strengthen the wood-based circular bioeconomy at national and regional level. With 27 participating European countries, as well as around 150 different experts from stakeholder organisations, research and industry, the initiative is chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of Austria. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Holzcluster Steiermark (Wood Cluster Styria) is the innovation driver and networking partner to support companies in the forest-based sector of the Styria region in Austria. With its 170 cluster partners, the interdisciplinary team connects, advises, develops, and promotes the regional innovation ecosystem, connecting science, business and policy in the cluster.

The Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union in Brussels is kindly hosting the event.

EU projects: The conference is co-organised with support of the Horizon Europe project consortia NEB Academy Alliance (NEBA Alliance), EcoReFibre, AEGIR, and EUFORE and digiNEB.

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