

# wood in sustainable development

CEI-Bois Roadmap 2010

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Successful Exhibition informs Members of the European Parliament About the Role of WOOD in helping to Reduce Climate Change.**

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February, an exhibition entitled 'Tackle climate change: use wood' was held in the European Parliament building in Brussels. This exhibition, organized by the Wood in Sustainable Development process under the CEI-Bois Roadmap 2010, highlighted wood's role in helping to reduce climate change.



The Opening Reception

The opening reception of the exhibition on 7 February attracted more than 180 participants.

The CEI-Bois Chairman, Mr Mikael Eliasson, welcomed the participants, thanked the host MEP, Mrs Catherine Guy-Quint, and stressed the economic importance of the woodworking and furniture industries. This sector employs more than 2.7 million employees and generates a turnover of some 165 billion euro per year in EU25.



Mr Mikael Eliasson, CEI-Bois Chairman



The "Wood in sustainable development" process of Roadmap 2010 is run by:  
European Panel Federation, EPF and European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, EOS  
Allée Hof-ter-Vleest 5/4 – B-1070 Bruxelles  
TP: +32 2 5562585 – TF: +32 2 5562595 - [roadmap@cei-bois.org](mailto:roadmap@cei-bois.org) - [www.cei-bois.org](http://www.cei-bois.org)

In an enlightening speech, Mrs Catherine Guy-Quint, French Member of the European Parliament (MEP) emphasized the aims of the exhibition at presenting the very modern nature of wood in the light of relaunching the strategies of Lisbon and Göteborg. She pointed out that everybody knows wood the product wood for centuries already, but that its exact place in the economy and its contribution to sustainable development are not well-known.



Mrs Catherine Guy-Quint, MEP

A better recognition of the environmental qualities of wood and wood-based products would enhance their use in Europe and thereby contribute to achieving the commitments of the EU under the Kyoto Protocol. Using wood contributes to renewing the carbon stock in the forests, when these are sustainably managed. The woodworking sector is clearly committed to the environment by using forestry residues and co-products as well as recycling wood to produce e.g. wood-based panels.

Mrs Guy-Quint also presented the example of a French regulation imposing a minimum use of wood in constructions. She claimed that this regulation should go further and foster the combined use of wood in all its forms with other materials. She concluded by stating that the future belongs to wood and those who use it. Achieving an increase of wood use by the politicians, the industry and the consumers will provide vast benefits to the whole society.

The Austrian MEP Dr. Paul Rübigen paid particular attention to the need of fostering research and technological development in the woodworking industries to ensure a continued development in a very competitive international environment. Therefore, the sector should be granted strong access to public support under the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Research Framework Programme.



Dr. Paul Rübigen, MEP

French MEP Mrs Anne Ferreira focused on the opportunities created by wood in the framework of environmental aspects of sustainable development. During subsequent discussions with industrialists, Mrs Ferreira very much appreciated the opportunity of the exhibition to increase her knowledge about the positive aspects of an increased use of wood-based products next to the widely recognised renewable energy aspect.



Mrs Anne Ferreira, MEP

EPF President Mr Ladislaus Döry closed by thanking Mrs Guy-Quint for her strong support in making this exhibition in the premises of the European Parliament possible.

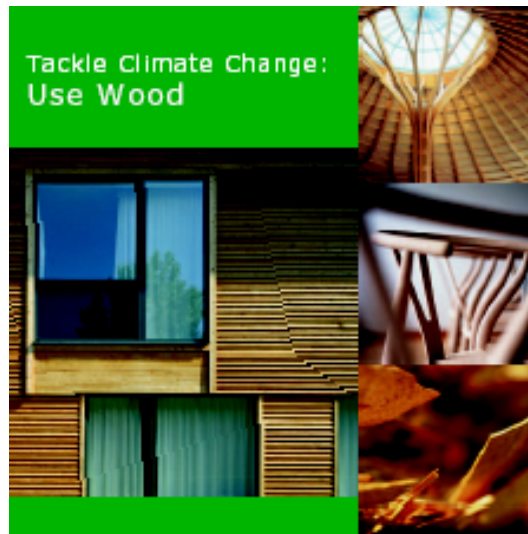
To illustrate that wood is a renewable resource and that Europe's forests are growing as only 64% of the annual increment of European forests are cut, the exhibition featured a large wooden cube outside the Parliament. Visitors were challenged to estimate how fast European forests (excl. Russia) grow within an eye blink. The exhibition also included graphic displays on how wood can be used to reduce climate change, showed a film, presented innovative wood-based designs, a tool to calculate the climate change impact of constructions etc. Industry experts were available at the stand to provide information throughout the three exhibition days.



Wooden cube symbolising the volume of wood grown in the European forests within an eyeblink

Every cubic metre of wood used as a substitute for other building materials will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the atmosphere by an average of 1.1 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Adding this to the 0.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> stored in wood, each cubic metre of wood saves a total of 2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus a 10% increase in the percentage of timber frame houses in Europe would produce sufficient CO<sub>2</sub> savings to account for 25% of the reduction prescribed by the Kyoto Protocol.

In the evening of 8 February, the President of the European Parliament Mr Joseph Borrell honoured the exhibition with a visit. Mr Borrell was most enthusiastic about the exhibition, in particular the design furniture and the publications.



A book entitled 'Tackle climate change: use wood' was launched during the exhibition. It provides a definitive source of reference on issues related to wood's role in reducing climate change. It contains a wealth of information on Europe's forests, how wood use helps to slow global warming, on wood as a bio fuel, as well as facts and figures on the European wood and furniture industry.

The exhibition at the European Parliament has been organised by the Wood in Sustainable Development process under CEI-Bois Roadmap 2010 in conjunction with the European Panel Federation, the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry, the Nordic Timber Council (Norway, Sweden and Finland), wood. for good (UK), Centrum Hout (Netherlands), Holzabsatzfonds (Germany), Federlegno-Arredo (Italy) and the Swedish Forest Industries Federation.



The exhibition

Roadmap 2010 is an action launched by CEI-Bois, the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, that aims at increasing the use of wood products in Europe especially in the areas "Building With Wood", "Living With Wood" and "Wood in Transport and Packaging".

The goal of the "Wood in Sustainable Development" process is to increase knowledge and awareness among all stakeholders on the positive contribution of enhanced wood use to both sustainable development and tackling climate change.

Copies of the book 'Tackle climate change; use wood' are available from the Wood in Sustainable Development Secretariat: [roadmap@cei-bois.org](mailto:roadmap@cei-bois.org).



MEP Guy-Quint with Mr de Sutter, one of the many industrialists attending the opening reception.