

## PositionPaper

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### **CEPI Position on Harvested Wood Products' contribution to climate change mitigation**

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) represents the interests of the European pulp, paper and board industry to the EU-Institutions. The European pulp and paper industry uses both wood and recycled fibre to produce pulp and paper. Thus, it contributes to climate change mitigation by entailing active forest management and by prolonging the life time of fibre.

#### **Statement**

CEPI and its members acknowledge the overarching importance of taking action to reduce greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions. They consider that long-term policies should principally aim at reducing emission levels.

**CEPI and its members nevertheless plea for the recognition of the the storage capacity of harvested wood products, and invite the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to fully intergrate it in the forthcoming engagements.**

As stated in the Chapter 9 of the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC, the forest sector and the forest products in Europe may contribute to lowering the amount of greenhouse gases by:

- Sequestering carbon in the trees and in the soil, through the active and sustainable management of forests
- Storing carbon in harvested wood products
- Providing substitutes to raw materials that can be more harmful for climate and for the environment in general and to fossil fuels for the generation of energy
- Generating renewable energy at the end of the product's life.

The current provisions of the Kyoto Protocol do not recognise the three latter functions, since they consider that carbon is re-emitted when trees are harvested. This contradicts the natural patterns and the reality !

Acknowledging the storage potential of harvested wood products would bring side-benefits:

- It would encourage the good and responsible management of the wood pool by promoting increased reuse, recycling and proper disposal;
- It would be an incentive to use wood rather than more CO<sub>2</sub> intensive raw materials, hence indirectly supporting a positive substitution that would also benefit to the climate and the environment.



As far as accounting rules applicable to harvested wood products are concerned, CEPI and its members urge the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to take into consideration the following principles:

- Accounting for storage in harvested wood products should be fully compatible with accounting rules applicable to carbon sequestration in forests, in a way that would avoid any double counting or flaw.
- Data quality should not be an obstacle to the accounting of storage in harvested wood products. On the contrary, the latter should be an incentive to improve the quality of the data.
- Costs generated by the selected accounting method should be proportionate to its expected benefits.
- The privileged method should:
  - be designed in order not exclude traded wood nor create barriers to trade;
  - ensure not to be a deterrent to the use of wood for energy generation (that would be contradictory with the policy engagement of the EU);
  - Limit the need for traceability of individual products, that would create a disproportionate burden on the operators.

## Note to the Editor

### CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry's achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the member's business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general. Through CEPI, the paper industry increases its visibility and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions on behalf of the industry.

Its collective expertise provides a unique source of information both for and on the industry; coordinating essential exchanges of experience and knowledge among its members, the ability to provide technical assistance to legislators and to identify independent experts on specific issues.

Through its 18 member countries (16 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 800 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1200 paper mills. Together they represent 27% of world production.

### Contacts

Bernard de Galembert, CEPI Forest and Research Director, [b.degalembert@cepi.org](mailto:b.degalembert@cepi.org) ,

Tel +32 475 89 31 18

Ulrich Leberle, CEPI Raw Materials Manager, [u.leberle@cepi.org](mailto:u.leberle@cepi.org) , Tel +32 479 90 59 21