What a tree can do?

Forests cover around 40% of Europe's territory (190 million ha), making Europe one of the most forest-rich regions in the world. Europe is in fact one of the few regions of the world where forest cover has increased over the last century. Forest owners and managers contribute to growth and jobs in rural areas while ensuring wood and ecological services provision. Forest activities have a turnover of almost €500 billion, employing approximately 3.5 million people. Industry has invested in technology to turn side-streams and by-products into innovative biobased products that are essential for the development of the bioeconomy. As more investments are made in innovative technologies, more products from this industry will reach new markets segments, providing additional benefits to society as a whole.

The bioeconomy comprises the sustainable provision of renewable resources and services and their conversion as well as the conversion of waste streams into food, feed, fibers, materials, chemicals and bioenergy. Biorefineries, essential part of the bioeconomy, are industrial installations that provide products from renewable natural resources, replacing fossil-based products.

A great example of biorefineries is pulp and paper along with chemical and bioenergy. More investments are made in innovative technologies, more products from this industry will reach new market segments, providing additional benefits to society as a whole.

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