
Press release

Innovative bio-based products for a sustainable future: New Cepi study on pulp & paper industry biorefineries in Europe

Brussels, 26 January 2021

Today Cepi presented the first Europe-wide [study](#) about pulp and paper industry biorefineries with a dedicated [webinar](#) attended by close to 100 participants from industry and press.

The study carried out by NC Partnering identified 139 biorefineries spread throughout Europe, with the biggest number of them located in Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Sweden.

These biorefineries bring to the market new bio-based products for a myriad of industrial value chains such as aviation, civil construction, printing and publishing, packaging, food, automotive & batteries, cosmetics, personal hygiene, electronics, pharmaceuticals & medical applications, furniture, chemicals, textile, and energy.

The most common bio-based products are man-made fibres, biodiesel and bio-naphta, lignosulphonate and tall oil products.

The purpose of this study is also to identify the value of these **emerging bio-based products**. The turnover generated is close to **€2.7 billion**, which corresponds to almost **3%** of European pulp and paper industry sector turnover as a whole. Based on investment plans and R&D programs, we expect this share to grow in the future.

The pulp & paper industry has the ambition to become the European hub for the bio-based economy, integrating wood fibre, bio-based products and novel recycling.

The key will also be to use the entire potential of raw materials and by-streams of the forest-based sector - which also means paper for recycling - for a broad range of high added value bio-based products.

“The EU Green Deal and the 2050 climate neutrality target require an ambitious shift in the way we produce and consume in Europe. Bio-based products offer solutions to many value chains, also reinforcing the strategic autonomy of Europe by supporting Made in Europe businesses based on raw materials principally sourced in Europe.” commented Jori Ringman, Cepi Director General.

Thanks to their immediate climate mitigation effect, bio-based products and the bioeconomy play an **essential role in achieving** the European Green Deal objectives such as climate neutrality (see [Cepi study on the climate effect of EU Forest-based industries](#)).

EU regulation and the EU industrial policy can support industry transformation by creating the appropriate investment conditions for the European bioeconomy to thrive.

Note to editor:

For press inquiries, please contact Claire Couet, Public Affairs & Communications Director, at c.couet@cepi.org

About Cepi :

Cepi is the European association representing the paper industry. We offer a wide range of renewable and recyclable wood-based fibre solutions to EU citizens: from packaging to textile, hygiene and tissue products, printing and graphic papers as well as speciality papers, but also bio-chemicals for food and pharmaceuticals, bio-composites and bioenergy.

We are a responsible industry: 92% of our raw materials are sourced in Europe and certified as sustainable, 91% of the water we use is returned to the environment, in good condition. We are the world champion in recycling at the rate of 72%. At the forefront of the decarbonisation and industrial transformation of our economy, we embrace digitalisation and bring 20 billion value addition to the European economy and €5.5 billion investments annually.

More information about our sustainability performance [here](#).

Through its 18 national associations, Cepi gathers 500 companies operating 895 mills across Europe and directly employing more than 180,000 people.