



EUROPEAN
CARTON MAKERS
ASSOCIATION



PRO CARTON
PACKAGING FOR
A BETTER WORLD

Cushioning the impact of skyrocketing energy prices on the European wood fibre-based value chain beyond winter 2022/2023

Joint statement on the emergency measures to tackle dramatic energy price rises

Brussels, 4 October 2022

The undersigned European associations representing actors along the European wood fibre-based value chain urgently request the European Commission, European Parliament and national governments to effectively cushion the impact of skyrocketing energy prices on our sector. In the context of a dramatically changing situation, we expect policymakers to ensure that our ever-increasing range of solutions for today's and tomorrow's needs of our customers, other industries, and society at large may continue to provide growth, wealth and jobs in Europe.

The extended forest-based value chains provide 4 million jobs in the green economy and account for one in every five manufacturing companies in Europe. Due to skyrocketing energy costs, our operations are severely threatened. Today pulp and paper mills must take difficult decisions in order to temporarily stop or reduce production across Europe. Likewise, the downstream user sectors in the packaging, printing and hygiene value chains are facing similar decisions, in addition to struggling due to a limited supply of materials. The lasting impact of the ongoing energy crisis is deeply concerning. It endangers our sectors' existence in Europe. A lack of action may result in a permanent loss of jobs along the entire value chain, especially in rural areas.

The European wood fibre-based value chains are fundamental for ensuring that EU citizens can continue to access information, education and essential products including food; that Europe's high standards for health and hygiene are protected; that the logistics which support the economy and the single market are maintained. Despite the slowing down of the European economy and the sanitary restrictions in 2020, most of our companies managed to ensure the continuous supply of a broad spectrum of paper products to EU consumers, businesses and medical facilities. Today's high energy costs threaten the continuity of operations and may ultimately result in an irreversible fall of global competitiveness.

Our renewable and recyclable solutions are made from predominantly European sustainably-sourced wood and recycled in Europe, using European technology. Building on our position as world champions in material recycling, we are set to increase recycling even further in order to boost the circular economy. European policymakers should strive to prevent the complete breakdown of crucial investments in innovations in our sector.

We urge the European Commission and Member States to cushion the impact of skyrocketing energy prices and energy shortages on wood fibre-based value chains that offer steady growth in the fossil-free economy. Immediate policy actions are needed in order to secure the green economy's future in Europe beyond winter 2022/2023.



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