REVOLVE: FOREST CITY PROJECT

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THE VALUE OF WOOD: CLOSING REMARKS

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The Value of Wood Forum

Two panel discussions:

1. Towards Sustainable Architecture & Construction

How can timber, wood-based products and other bio-based materials add value to the durability of buildings and the resilience of cities while bringing down CO2 emissions? How to make our urban fabric more sustainable?

2. Forests boost Innovation and the Bio-economy

The bio-economy is central to combating climate change and safeguarding ecosystems. What services, technologies and industries in the forest-based sector are boosting the bio-economy? How is the bio-economy advancing the triple bottom-line of sustainability for society, environment, business?

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PANEL 1:

- Forests and wood-based products can both play significant roles in combatting CO^2 emissions; LULUCF addresses this
- LULUCF incentivises carbon-efficient land management systems, including soil, in agriculture & forestry, and the substitution of fossil-based materials & fuels, e.g. by wood
- But a vital issue is "the carbon accounting conundrum", i.e. getting the balance right between storing carbon in living forests and in harvested wood products, especially buildings.
- Doing this is made more difficult by the fact that the uncertainties associated with emission reductions from forests are still high. With more experience, forest carbon reference levels may be recalibrated and possible transfer of forest credits to the ESR considered. Meanwhile:
- LULUCF does not impact individual forest owners directly
- there are varying views about the carbon neutrality of bio-energy.

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PANEL 1:

Wood provides climate-change mitigation through:

- The forest as a carbon sink
- The carbon storage effect – 1m³ wood = 1 tonne CO^2
- The substitution effect – 1 tonne wood = 1.5-3.5 tonnes CO^2
- The building energy efficiency of timber construction
- end-of-life (energy recovery) – 1m³ wood = 0.5 tonne CO^2

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PANEL 2:

- Amazing forest-based innovations:
- From tooth-picks to electronic innovations:
- But paper-based electronics are 50 years behind silicon!

- Wood provided 60 % of Renewable energy in 2014, 50% 2020
- Bio-energy in Europe consumed 95% locally
- Bio-energy is part of the bio-economy
- Bio-energy can be delivered using smart, modern appliances
- Bio-energy has many feed stocks, offering diverse fuel forms

Some *wood* for thought:

- **wood can indeed be *a* sustainable construction material, being renewable, capturing and storing carbon**

- **wood-based products are infinitely varied (tooth-picks, bio-medicines, bio-chemicals, building, furniture, paper-based electronics. Many need only low-level processing energy**

- **wood is recoverable, re-useable & recyclable, including as bio-energy, which itself has diverse forms of delivery**

- **thus wood has high potential in the Circular Economy (e.g. cascading guidelines to be developed) but higher recovery rates and better separation are needed, including through eco-design and de-construction**

So, wood is good, BUT:

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Some *wood* for thought:

- **wood has to compete in products on a functional and materially neutral basis (NB Competition Policy, Construction Products Regulation: CPR). Accordingly, achieving higher levels of wood use in the bio-economy & building requires a functionally based approach to policy-making & wood supply**

- **building with wood often needs higher levels of awareness, skills and care than for other materials. Therefore education, training, skills development and re-skilling are essential (NB Skills "Blueprint" initiative)**
- **CPR > Eurocode 5 + norms for wood-based bldg. products**
- **2012: Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises: working groups**
- **2016: Climate & Energy Union Package: The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD): National Energy Efficiency Strategies: "smart buildings"**

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Some *wood* for thought:

The Circular Economy transition requires stronger value chain (and stakeholder) cooperation. One way to receive recognition of initiatives to this end is to submit a "commitment" to the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. The first two calls for commitments have resulted in 123 recognised commitments involving some 980 individual partners. The next call is to be launched towards the end of 2017.

- **Under Societal Challenges 2 and 5 of the Horizon 2020, financing opportunities exist to finance projects on the bio-based economy, including wood supply and use. For example, WP2016-17 contained topics on wood harvesting and EU network on sustainable wood supply. The COM is currently developing its next work programme, where it considers to focus on resource efficiency and seizing climate benefits of using wood materials by industry**

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Some *wood* for thought:

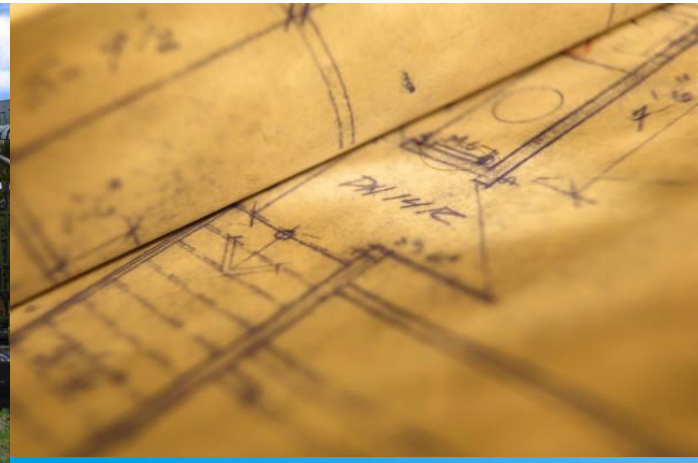
Wood ≠ wood ≠ wood

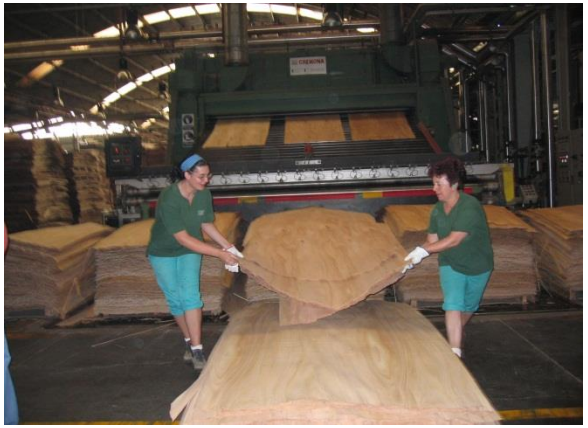
30 000 tree species globally but few used on a large scale
Their properties vary and many are not inter-substitutable
Thus there are needs to:

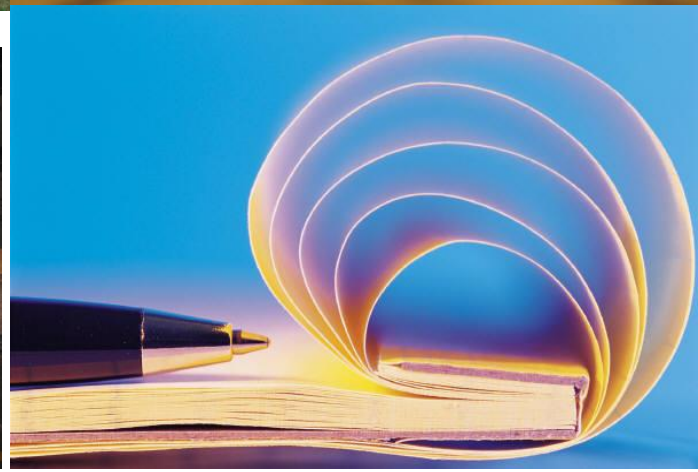
- **conserve their genetic diversity;**
- **use un-used/under-used species more intensively, and**
- **anticipate & mitigate climate change impacts on forests**

Protect trees outside the forest (- 3.5 Mha in the EU!), including in urban and peri-urban areas where they can have the highest societal value.

Thank you! Merci! धन्यबाद देना! Diolch!







www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/forest_based/index_en.html