



**1st High Level Meeting
of the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)
1st of December 2022, Innsbruck, Austria**

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

In the context of combating climate change, a growing number of countries, regions, cities and communities in Europe, as well as in other parts of the world, aim to enhance the sustainable use of wood and other renewable materials by fostering a forest-based bioeconomy.

The renewable resource wood and other wood-based materials play a vital role in enabling the transformation towards a carbon neutral circular economy and climate positive society. Climate mitigation and adaptation are inherently connected to the sustainable use and management of land, given that forests and wood store carbon and substitute fossil materials and active forest management can increase the resilience and adaptability of forests towards climate change. Trade-offs between carbon stocks in biosphere and technosphere need to be addressed in a balanced way. This requires joint efforts among countries and stakeholders.

Several initiatives and actions with a special focus on wood and wood-based materials are being pursued across Europe. However, they can gain weight and impact by promoting exchange of knowledge, insights and experiences between government representatives including input from scientists and business experts as well as relevant European stakeholders (industry and environment) and national organizations and processes. A dedicated forum for multilateral exchange can facilitate the sharing of best practices and opportunities of coordinated approaches in developing policy solutions. Furthermore, it serves to mobilise key public and private actors in the wood sector at national and regional level, and to support directing investments in sustainable bio-based solutions and wood-based value chains.

The 1st woodPoP High Level Meeting was co-chaired by Austria and Finland. The following countries participated: Austria, British Columbia/CA (observer), Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg (observer), Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland. In addition, the following stakeholder organisations took part in the meeting: Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), European Woodworking Industry Confederation (CEI-Bois), European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS), European Panel Federation (EPF), European Parquet Federation (FEP), European Panel Federation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP), InnovaWood, International Union of Forest Researcher Organizations (IUFRO) and Timber Construction Europe. The participants exchanged views in support of the “WOODPOP CALL on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe” (see page 2).



WOODPOP CALL

on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe, for the benefit of

- **FACILITATING** a wood-focused policy dialogue platform on sustainable production and consumption of wood and its contribution to an innovative, circular bioeconomy
- **FOSTERING** cooperation and joint activities on wood related matters as well as effective wood policy development and implementation in the pan-European region
- **PROMOTING** the added value of wood, wood-based materials and especially long-lived wood products from sustainable forest management as key drivers for inclusive green growth, contributing to climate protection and mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- **EMPHASIZING** the numerous benefits of multifunctional forests and the need for transformative change in order to foster wood use as a nature-based solution, to promote its climate mitigation and adaptation potential and contribute to halting the global loss of nature
- **ACKNOWLEDGING** the broad expertise and vast knowledge of the forest-based sector in Europe as a key enabler to develop efficient, future oriented wood-based pathways