

Exhibition at the European Parliament, in Brussels, “Tackle Climate Change – Use Wood: The Woodworking Industries and the multiple lives of wood and wood products” – 3 to 7 December

Maia, 22 November 2012 – Wood and its derivatives comes into our lives not only by growing all around us, but by providing us with shelter, by offering us comfort, by drifting towards us. Wood can be a vehicle to immortalize our passage through this world and it reminds us of our personal relation with nature. It now also comes to the European Parliament in Brussels under the form of art.

In this spirit, Mr. Gaston Franco, MEP (Member of the European Parliament) and President of the Club du Bois, hosts an exhibition from 3 to 7 December 2012 in the Altiero Spinelli building of the European Parliament to raise awareness among his colleagues on the many advantages of wood use for Europe. The exhibition is organized by the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS), the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Panel Federation (EPF), from whom Sonae Indústria is member.

Works and installations of renowned Europeans artists using wood: Stephan Balkenhol (Germany), Gorzo Dumitru (Romania), Arnie Quinze (Belgium), Philippe Ramette (France) and Richard Long (UK) will be displayed in a “wood garden” and highlight a selection of the best harvested wood products art can produce.

Through the art, the industry wants to raise awareness and increase knowledge over the special role of wood and wood products in the fight against climate change and showcase the plenitude of opportunities offered by the material.

Subtitle of the exhibition “Plant a second forest”, refers to the carbon stock from the forest that remains in harvest wood products, which prolong the storage of the carbon as captured by the trees. The role of carbon storage as part of the solution to mitigate climate change is currently under discussion within the European Parliament.

Tackle Climate Change: Use Wood

Wood is a unique material. As a naturally renewable resource, it is a carbon store, can be re-used and recycled and at the end of its life, can be burned and the energy recovered.

Wood and wood-based products satisfy a myriad of applications, many of which will lock in the stored carbon for decades. Through the supply chain, the wood industries are responsible for more than 2 million jobs and generate nearly 200 billion per year in the European economies.

To optimize the effect of carbon storage, so as to benefit the environment, employment and the economy, priority should be given to the wood, in the production of wood-derived products.

An annual increase of 4% in European consumption of wood would capture an additional 150 million tons of CO₂ per year. Supporting a “wood first” policy to substitute non-renewable materials represents an important contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions and even an incentive to investment in sustainable forest management; This is relevant to the climate, social welfare, the economy and employment.

Nature's recipe is simple: lock carbon in forests and we can all continue the process by using, re-using and recycling wood based products.