



Press Release

Brussels, 15 of February 2022

ETIC to start operations - Members validate strategies and 2022-2024 working program

The members of **ETIC**, the *European Timber Industries Confederation*, have met in Brussels to endorse and launch the working program that will enforce the European Organisation' strategy for the 2022-2024 biennium.

ETIC leaders have firstly approved the “pillars” on which the Confederation will be based:

1. **The providing of robust inputs to the European Institutions** resulting from the work of its internal *Policy Commissions*;
2. **The advocating for a larger and concrete insert of the timber Industry sector in the EC agenda:**
 - The timber Industry offers multiple responses for facing and tackling major climate change challenges;
 - The timber Industry is a full-fledged “Ecosystem” and can legitimately pretend being directly supported through the allocation of resources from the European Recovery Fund;
 - The timber industry has a playmaker role in the development of new industrial/economical/social models “after Covid-19”.
3. **The building of solid communication activities** to promote the use of timber;
4. **The ensuring of constant interaction with EU Authorities, political decision-makers and stakeholders;**
5. **The developing of its membership;**
6. **The consolidation of a modern and financially sustainable Confederation**, solidly anchored on basic and true associative principles.

Targeted actions will be executed according to four main work streams:

- A. Focus will be put on key policy areas as **raw material supply, sustainability, forest and biodiversity strategies** to continue support sustainable forest management and secure resource availability always keeping awareness on the **crucial forests multifunctional role**.
Special attention will be dedicated to **wood exports** to extra-European Countries in order to keep due track of export flows, properly gauge impact on European Industry and reaffirm the principle of free trade and free access for all to the resource;
- B. The second action perimeter concerns the ongoing establishment of the **ETIC Certification Platform** for wood-based products, aiming to validate the sustainability of all the processing phases converting the raw material into a finished product.
The Platform functioning will be tested and inaugurated within shortly through the implementation of a certification scheme for ecological wood-based coffins that will be based on the Portuguese initiative **CNUF** (*Urna Ecológica Certificada*) and following a strict production process audit performed by French *Bureau Veritas*;
- C. Significant engagement will be dedicated to Industrial relations and Social affairs with main attention to **wood sector Social Dialogue** within which **ETIC** commits to be proactive and step up efforts to further,

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in partnership with the sector Trade Union representatives, its campaign to **improve the image and the attractiveness of the timber Industry**;

- D. The accurate 360° monitoring of all issues related to the **wood treatment** and the research advances on alternatives to current treatment substances.

To perform the above-mentioned program, **ETIC** staff is backed by a professional communication & marketing team and will be soon strengthen with the grafting of some junior profiles.

Rapidly, **ETIC** will address EC, EP and Permanent Representations interlocutors to present its agenda and raise awareness on its members concerns and ambitions.

At the end of the meeting, while presenting the new release of the **ETIC** website (WWW.ETIC.WEBSITE), the Chairman, Mr. Vítor Manuel Poças, recalled the Confederation core values and insisted on **ETIC** determination“.....*to contribute to the affirmation of an innovative, certified, internationalized and sustainable business system, capable of harmoniously promoting the economic, social, civil and cultural growth of Europe.....*”.

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