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Press Release

Key ways to maximize potential of forest bioenergy to decarbonize Europe underlined

European forestry and agricultural organisations urge MEPs to ensure that the role of forest bioenergy to decarbonize Europe is not hindered when they vote on an EU Commission proposal on the promotion of renewable energy sources (RES).

Forests and the forest-based sector play a significant role in tackling climate change by helping to decarbonize Europe to reach its post-2020 climate and energy targets, whilst also boosting growth and jobs in EU rural areas. Sustainably grown EU forests are an important piece in the puzzle of renewable energy. For example, advanced biofuels are one of the solutions to ensure a more climate-friendly transport sector. It is important that the EU Commission proposal on the promotion of renewable energy sources (RES) does not hinder this.

In particular, the 9 organisations collectively called for :

- All types of wood biomass, such as roundwood, to be included in the RES Directive as a renewable raw material for biofuels, heat and power, otherwise sustainable forest management and related investments will be undermined;
- Cascade use of woody biomass should remain a voluntary principle. If embedded into EU legislation it would hinder resource efficiency and innovation, creating excessive red tape and impacting negatively on the market;
- Promotion of efficient use of resources and assurance that the use of waste and residues is not restricted in biofuel production;
- Assurance that products like pulpwood and tall oil remain on the list in Annex IX of the proposal.

Their demands were set out this week in a joint letter to MEPs co-signed by 9 organisations - CEPF, Copa & Cogeca, EUSTAFOR, ELO, Ceettar Ceja, EOS, UEF, USSE - representing European forest owners and managers, farmers and their cooperatives, the sawmill industry, forest workers, contractors and professionals.

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