



PressRelease

The European forest-based Sector launches Vision for 2040

Forest-based sector Technology Platform (FTP)

VIENNA, 20 NOV 2018 – Today, in an event under the umbrella of the Austrian EU-presidency, the “FTP Vision 2040 of the European Forest-based Sector” was launched. The venue, the very prestigious Marmorsaal in the premises of the Federal Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, was fully packed with representatives from some 20 European countries.

The conference, entitled “Vision 2040: The future role of the forest bioeconomy in Europe”, aimed to show that the forest-based sector is a leading actor in and enabler of a circular bioeconomy. Representatives of the European Commission, national public authorities, as well as researchers, business representatives and forest owners took part in panel debates and inspiring talks. All in order to help moving from promises to actually achieving real facts and figures.

A message by Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Federal Minister for Sustainability and Tourism opened the conference by congratulating the stakeholders of the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform on the successful launch of a new Vision for 2040: “I am pleased that you have selected Vienna as the venue for the FTP conference. The forest-based sector is one of the largest industrial sectors in Europe. It is very important for Austria” Ms. Köstinger continued: “The Vision, which includes ten Vision Targets for 2040, is very ambitious. It will require policymakers, Member States’ administrations and the stakeholders of the forest-based sector to work together to make the Vision a reality. This job starts today”.

“The European forest-based sector has a major role to play in the bioeconomy. The sustainable management of forests, and the provision of wood, for various uses in implementing the bioeconomy plays a crucial role for the future development of our society. In this context, future EU research policies will be decisive for a successful bioeconomy development”, stated Peter Mayer, Managing Director of the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW) and co-chair of the FTP National Support Group in Austria.

“Last year was a record year for European funding to boost research and innovation in the forest-based sector. The positive trend demonstrates confidence that forest owners and industry can deliver sustainable bioproducts and technologies that will enable the EU to make true on its commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals”, explained Johan Elvnert, FTP Managing Director.

“We can provide solutions to the global challenges like no other sector. This is why a European Vision, based on the efforts of the whole forest-based sector is so important. FTP Vision 2040 is fully aligned with Södras vision for the future” said Lena Ek, Chair of the Board of FTP and President of Södra, Sweden’s largest forest-owner association, and an international forest industry Group with net sales in 2017 amounting to 2 billion Euro.

“The FTP Vision 2040 presents the sector’s long-term common goals, while the technical, societal and business challenges ahead will be described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRA). We encourage policy makers and stakeholders of the forest-based sector to work together to achieve the FTP Vision 2040”, explained Leo Arpa, co-chair of the FTP National Support Group in Austria and Head of R&D at Mondi Group.

Vision 2040 facilitates these interactions as it clearly sets out the long-term goals. Within the new Vision, the forest-based value-chain outlines ten Vision Targets. These foresee that the sector will contribute significantly to the mitigation of climate change and a more sustainable economy in the coming years.

A new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, to be launched in 2019, will provide the roadmap that will enable the forest-based sector to achieve its Vision 2040, in cooperation with public authorities and the European Community. The sector looks forward to the future with a great deal of enthusiasm.

[Link to FTP Vision 2040 of the forest-based sector](#)

About FTP

FTP is the European Technology Platform for the Forest-based Sector. Since 2005 when FTP was established, more than EUR 1 billion of public funding have been invested in cooperative research and innovation projects addressing the previous Vision for 2020 and improving the competitiveness and sustainability of the forest-based sector in Europe. The long-term strategy of FTP has now established its Vision 2040 to be implemented through the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. These documents are presented to meet changing realities.

FTP's secretariat is in Brussels and is headed by the FTP managing director. The FTP board is the highest decision-making body. The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) and European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) are FTP shareholders. National Support groups are an important element of FTP's organizational structure. The NSGs serve as coordinators for business and national research bodies, authorities and funding agencies. They have a key role in securing regional support for the platform.

About the European Forest-based Sector

The forest-based sector is one of Europe's largest business sectors. It includes woodworking industries, pulp and paper industries as well as forest owners. It contributes some 8% of the EU's total manufacturing added value, and sustainably manages forests covering 43% of the EU's land area. It supports 4 million industrial jobs in sectors including transport, machinery, construction, instrumentation, information technology, chemicals and energy. The sector is also Europe's biggest producer and user of bio-based energy.

For further information, please contact:

Johan Elvnert

Managing Director, FTP

32 (0) 2 239 2303

johan.elvnert@forestplatform.org

www.forestplatform.org