



PRESS RELEASE

EU wood factories down tools in protest against unfair subsidies

Organisation coordinates protests across Europe and invites politicians and media to visit local facilities to witness the negative impact governmental subsidies have on the industry

Brussels – 29 October 2010 – The [European Panel Federation](#) (EPF) announced some 150 wood panel manufacturing facilities will stop production and open their doors to local politicians and members of media as part of today's European Action Day. EPF coordinated the day to provide its members with a united platform through which they could protest against government subsidies that lead to a huge increase of the direct burning of woody biomass.

The purpose of today's events is to expose the unintended consequences of subsidies for the energy use of woody biomass, unintentionally putting the wood-based panel sector and the entire woodworking industries at risk.

“Great progress has been made by the EU's efforts to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as well as the sustainable management of forests, but now we must accept that the raft of policy in these areas has unintentionally created some highly damaging situations” said Ladislaus Döry, President of the European Panel Federation. “Our focus has to shift towards a renewable materials policy that sustainably mobilises increased wood quantities, encourages greater recycling, and ensures the competitiveness of the industry. It is important that policymakers address this oversight today, or risk solid wood biomass becoming the next biofuels debacle.”

As part of the demonstrations, EPF members will temporarily halt production today. Local politicians and members of the media are encouraged to contact EPF to identify and coordinate a visit to a local demonstration.

About the European Panel Federation

The European Panel Federation represents the European manufacturers of particleboard, MDF and OSB from 29 countries. The sector includes more than 180 factories which are mostly located in rural areas. In 2009 the industry produced 34.6 million m³ of particleboard, 12.2 million m³ of MDF and 3.3 million m³ of OSB, generating a turnover of €25 billion.

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