



8/ Strengthening forest economy

Our proposal

Developing carbon sequestration by European forests

Investment supports for local "bio-sourced" materials as well as for reforestation and restriction of land artificialisation.



The stakes for the climate

Mobilizing 100 million m³ of additional wood products for construction would lead to a reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions across the European Union of around **100 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent** by 2050, i.e. nearly **3% of the total emission reductions required to meet our "carbon budget"* responsibilities.**

Other reasons to adopt this solution

Job creation

Increasing the use of wood in the buildings sector will lead to net job creation throughout the chain: forest management, transformation, construction.

Economic activity

The development of the wood sector will create numerous new opportunities. This development is unlikely to compete to any great extent with other materials (cement, steel, fibreglass, mineral wool, etc.), especially since potential synergies may emerge.

Environment, health & well-being

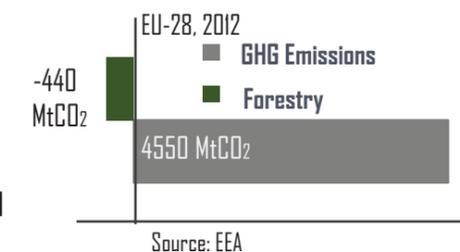
The implementation of these measures would make it possible to rehabilitate abandoned or degraded land, pave the way for the sustainable management of forest resources and enable the anticipation of the consequences of climate change on forest ecosystems.

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Why ?

European forests compensate for almost **10% of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions.**

The use of wood in construction **extends the carbon sequestration** benefits provided by forests, and can be a substitute for materials associated with production processes that emit greenhouse gases.



How ?

- **Employ government procurement** to encourage the use of wood in construction
- Support investments by **mobilizing government-backed guarantee mechanisms**
- On a European level, support the creation and financing of national or regional **reforestation** and **dynamic forest management** programmes
- Encourage the production of **lumber** over wood destined for industry and wood energy
- **Prioritize wood usages**, promoting:
 - for wood material, long-life products
 - for wood energy, local heat production and not large-scale electricity production
- **Limit anthropogenic land transformation**
- No longer export logs for sawing, but **re-establish primary processing industries in Europe**

How much does it cost ?

The investment required in the primary and secondary wood processing sectors is modest: it is estimated to be around **€140 billion**.

Who pays?

Most of the investment costs would be government backed, via state procurement and subsidies provided to households for the use of wood in construction and renovation.

* Our "carbon budget": target greenhouse gas emission ceiling for 2050, corresponding to a four-fold reduction in European Union Member State emissions compared to 1990 levels.