



# Prague Declaration

## of the CEE wood industry interest groups for

### Innovation – Climate Protection – Jobs – Value Creation

#### Executive Summary

The wood industry associations from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia — supported by the German Forestry Council (DFWR) — jointly advocate for a strong, sustainable, and competitive European wood value chain. Our industries work with renewable resources, rooted in sustainable forest management, and contribute to climate action, innovation, and rural employment. We reaffirm our readiness to engage in constructive European policy-making to strengthen the forest-based sector.

The Central and Eastern European wood industries associations are ready to take responsibility and want to be actively involved in the development of a better regulatory framework for the wood value chain.

## Our Key Positions

### Sustainable Raw Materials – A Prerequisite for a Strong European Wood Industry

- We call for a firm political commitment to sustainable forest management and an EU-wide impact assessment of Green Deal measures affecting forests and the wood value chain.
- A secure, affordable, and local wood supply is essential. Closing forest areas to harvesting endangers competitiveness, increases import dependency, and reduces rural jobs.
- Climate-resilient forest development must reflect the needs of the wood industry, including future-oriented tree species like spruce and pine.

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### Relaunching the Green Deal – Putting Wood at the Core

- We call for a renewed Green Deal with wood and the circular bioeconomy at its heart.
- Policies must reward the use of wood over fossil-based and emission-intensive materials.
- The traditional wood-processing chain must remain central to the EU's bioeconomy strategy. Sustainably managed forests ensure both climate benefits and supply security.

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### Nature Restoration Law – Protecting Nature through Sustainable Use

- We support forest protection through active management, not exclusion.
- The 10% strict protection target must be revised — it risks reducing the EU wood supply by up to 48%.
- Forest policy must respect national responsibility and subsidiarity.

## LULUCF Regulation – Aligning Climate Goals with Forest Use

- We oppose forest abandonment as a climate strategy. Active management offers greater carbon benefits.
- Managed forests and long-life wood products create dynamic carbon sinks.
- Rejuvenated forests are more resilient and effective in meeting long-term climate goals.

## Building with Wood – Unlocking Ecological and Economic Potential

- We call for regulatory frameworks that treat wood equally in construction codes and promote innovation in timber construction.
- The EU must simplify and harmonise standards such as the Construction Products Regulation and support SMEs.
- Public investment in timber construction and procurement must be expanded – including through the Affordable Housing Initiative.
- The legal framework for reuse and recycling must adequately recognise the potential of wood in construction

## EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – A Critical Need for Reassessment


- The EUDR must be revised or repealed. It threatens the EU's own circular bioeconomy without providing practical solutions.
- We urge its inclusion in the Omnibus initiative to reduce red tape.
- An "insignificant risk" category is needed to ease obligations where no deforestation risk exists.
- Controls should focus on high-risk countries and products, not burden non-risk EU supply chains.


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