

# “Placing timber and timber products on the market”

Thoughts and reflections of CEI-Bois  
EESC Conference, Joensuu, 23 September 2009



# General position

- CEI-Bois condemns illegal logging
  - Damages promotion of legal and sustainable forest practices
  - Damages the image of wood as an environmentally positive material
- CEI-Bois supports EU in fighting it
- Active involvement in decision-making process
- Basic support to Commission proposals
- But...



# But...

- Need for rationalism in the debate
  - No emotions or beliefs
  - Reliable facts and figures
- Majority of wood and timber products in EU are derived from sustainable managed European forests



# Concerns over EP proposals

- “Placing on the market”
  - Due diligence to apply to 1st placing on the market only
  - Avoid burden of proof on all operators in the value chain
- Legality vs. Sustainability are two different notions not to be mixed up
- “Applicable legislation”
  - Applying regional or international legislation not always possible



# Concerns over EP proposals

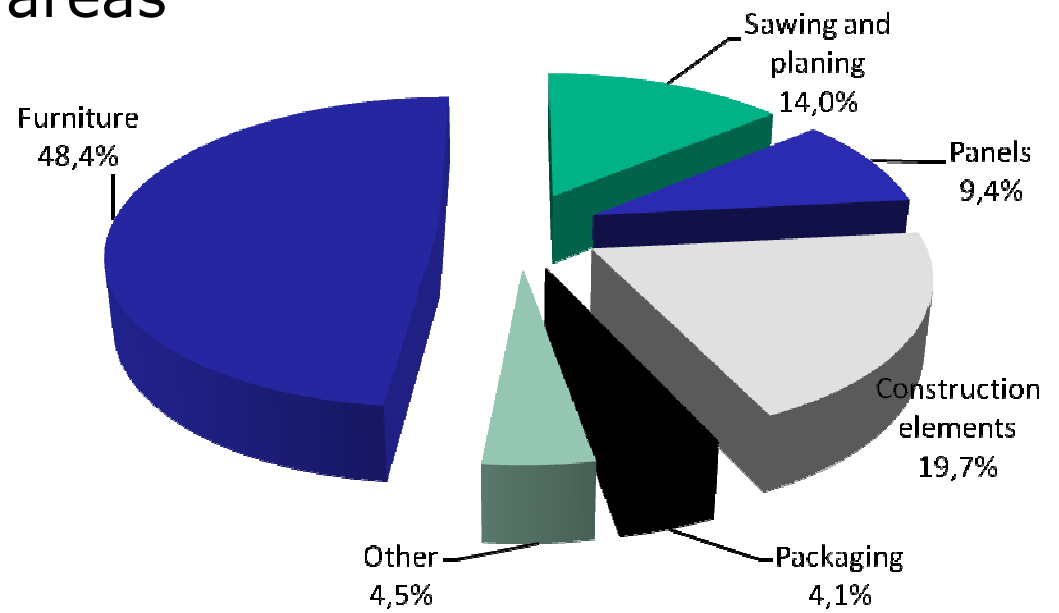
- “Risk assessment”
  - Trade associations to be allowed to play a role
- “Labelling requirement”
  - Not applicable in practice
  - Any product on the market should be deemed to be legal
- Economic impact on the wood sector (majority SME!)





# Key facts woodworking in Europe

- Production value: € 270 billion/annum
- Employment: 2.9 million
- Number of companies: 380 000
- Strong presence in rural areas
- Traditional SME-sector





# Members

- National federations



- Sub-sector federations

- EOS/OES: Sawmilling
- EPF: Particleboard, MDF and OSB
- FEFPEB: Wooden packaging and pallets
- FEIC: Plywood
- FEMIB: Wooden building joinery
- FEP: Parquet
- FEROPA: Fibreboard
- WEI/IEO: Wood preservation