



PRESS RELEASE

Joint statement between EU forest sector & labour unions shows blue collar jobs can be green collar jobs

Brussels, 5 December - The forest-based sector and labour unions unite for a fair transition towards a vibrant and growing bioeconomy. Through the Circular Choices coalition, they call for a policy framework that captures investments in quality jobs and "Made in Europe" manufacturing.

The European forestry and forest-based bioeconomy sector, gathered within the Circular Choices Coalition, represents **3% of EU GDP** and one in five manufacturing companies in the EU.

The transition to a circular economy in the EU must prioritise competitiveness, fairness and inclusivity, aiming to sustain and generate quality jobs while fostering innovation through the development of new and existing bio-based products. These are the conclusion of discussions held by social partners and stakeholders gathered in Brussels last November, including **Member of the European Parliament Inese Vaidere and Sven Matzke, acting Head of Unit for social dialogue at the European Commission.**

A Clean Industrial Deal and the expected sustainable and affordable housing initiative should contribute to overcoming the challenges the industry faces in making this green transition happen while increasing investment in social, public, energy-efficient and sustainable living spaces.

The associations co-signing the joint statement released today acknowledge that such new industrial framework aims to help alleviate the industry's burden, but in order to support the industry's contribution to the Green Deal, the practical implementation of the Clean Industrial Deal and revitalising the construction sector will ensure that Europe becomes competitive again by **fostering innovation and investment in future green technologies, products and solutions**, and by **promoting social progress and just transition, while ensuring good quality jobs.**

To ensure good quality industrial jobs across Europe, the co-signatories call to policymakers for:

- **Training and job-to-job transition.**
- **Identify, assess, and prepare for the impacts of the industrial transition.**
- **Guarantee high quality jobs throughout the industrial transition.**
- **Build, rebuild and strengthen social dialogue and collective bargaining structures at all levels across Europe.**
- **Increase investments on Research and Development (R&D) and access to finance for decarbonisation.**

[Download the joint statement between the Circular Choices coalition, industriAll Europe and EFFAT on the need for good industrial jobs in Europe.](#)

[Read the Circular Choices Coalition policy recommendations.](#)



About the Circular Choices Coalition:

The Circular Choices Coalition comprises 14 EU trade associations supported by a further six trade associations that represent EU forest owners and managers. The Circular Choices members collectively represent experts in the EU forestry sector, the wood, fibre-based paper, and board products industry, and in renewable energy provision. The coalition represents 4 million direct employees, turns over €520 billion and sequesters, and helps store and substitute 806 Mt CO₂ eq annually, equivalent to 20% of EU total fossil emissions. We offer circular and affordable solutions to deliver a net-zero economy by optimising the use of sustainable and renewable wood and wood fibre-based products and energy in a responsible and resource-efficient manner. Caring for the EU's forests means caring for people's needs. Sustainable forest management has been a success thanks to the commitment and efforts of forest owners and managers. Their decisions today will echo far into the future. Find out more [here](#).

About industriAll:

The industriAll European Trade Union aims to develop common views and positions with its affiliates in order to build up efficient strategies to defend the economic, social and cultural interests of the workers in these industries on a basis of solidarity, mutual respect and common principles. The industriAll European Trade Union advocates thorough social reforms, the reinforcement of democracy and the promotion of economic and social progress in Europe. It supports an integrated Europe without borders, with common social standards, a high level of social protection and the involvement of workers and trade union representatives.

The industriAll European Trade Union is established to organize and enhance the collective power of working people in Europe, to defend their rights and advance their common goals with respect to both companies and States. To this end, the industriAll European Trade Union works on pushing forward the coordination and development of collective bargaining, industrial relations and social policies. We aim to be a powerful player in the European policy arena vis-à-vis European companies, European industries, employers' associations and European institutions.

About EFFAT:

EFFAT is the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions. As a European Trade Union Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 22 million workers employed along the food chain. EFFAT is a member of the ETUC and the European regional organisation of the IUF.

Contacts:

Ana Díaz Cordero, Cepi EU Public Affairs Manager

Email: a.diaz-cordero@cepi.org



Piotr Pogorzelski, Cefi Media Relations Manager

Email: p.pogorzelski@cepi.org

Danae Dimitrakopoulos, Press and Communications Assistant

Email : danai.dimitrakopoulos@industrial-all-europe.eu

Maddalena Colombi, EFFAT Communications, Press and campaigns

Email: m.colombi@effat.org