

Wood in Construction

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Vienna, Austria on 5 May 2014:

Notes:

- The need for resource efficiency in all sectors;
- the aim of achieving climate-friendly solutions;
- the size and importance of construction within the European business fields;
- that the requirements for energy efficiency in building are becoming significantly greater;
- that the production of building materials and the process of construction itself contribute to energy consumption and CO₂ emissions;
- that wood acts as a carbon sink when used in construction;
- that many harmful chemical compounds are discovered in building materials, e.g. the endocrine disruptor bisphenol A in relined water pipes;
- that infants, children and the elderly are especially sensitive to regular exposure to chemical compounds with e.g. behavioral or reproductive disorders as a consequence.

States:

- That the choice of building materials should be based on technology neutrality along with toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-friendly materials;
- that resource efficiency should be calculated for the whole life cycle of the resources used;
- that the role of renewable natural resources, such as forests, in resource efficiency is crucial;
- that in particular the use of low-emission renewable materials, such as wood, for building purposes is resource-efficient;
- that in the name of energy efficiency attention should be paid to the phases of production and disposal of the material used in construction, along with the actual use of a building;
- that wood in construction could contribute to the overall goal of the EU becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based sustainable and advanced economy in the world.

Calls on:

- The Commission to encourage the use of renewable, bio-based, recyclable, toxic-free and environment-friendly materials in construction.
- The Commission to carry out a reliable assessment of the

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emissions from the production of building materials and of the construction itself.

- The EU institutions to set goals for reducing CO2 emissions in the production of building materials and in the construction itself.
- All stakeholders to increase the use of materials with a low environmental impact and help the progress of innovations reducing the environmental impact.
- The EU Commission and all Member States to remove regulations that hinder sustainable building or do not promote technology neutrality