



# European Federation of Wooden pallet and Packaging Manufacturers

## NEWSLETTER FEFPEB July 2024



### 1. 71st FEFPEB congress / 25-27 September 2024 Oostende/Bruges (Belgium)

#### "Wooden pallets and packaging: Our future in a rapidly changing world"

Fedustria and FEFPEB are steppin into a higher gear to finalize the programme of the next congress.

This is the **agenda** for the a very diverse **Business Session on 27 September 2024**:

#### Official Opening

By Bart Tomelein (B), mayor of Oostende.  
Welcome by Rob van Hoesel (NL), President FEFPEB

#### Economic outlook: geopolitical update and macro trends

By Koen de Leus (B), Chief Economist – Research BNP Paribas Fortis

#### After the European elections: The EU landscape changing – impact on the wood sector

By Paul Brannen (UK) / CEI Bois – Director of Public Affairs (formerly MEP)

#### Belgium for Dummies / the unique political structure of Belgium

By Professor Stefaan Walgrave (B) - Antwerp University

#### Succession in SME family businesses – next generation

By mrs Aurélie Maes (B), CEO of Maes Mattress Ticking

#### FEFPEB Business – EUDR and FEFPEB statistics

By Fons Ceelaert (NL), secretary general FEFPEB

#### FEFPEB Business - PR / The revised Packaging from Nature Campaign

By Dominic Weaver (UK), PR consultant FEFPEB

#### Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive / impact on wooden packaging – status process

By mrs Ollala Michelena and Nikhil Varghese, Denton Global Advisors DGA (B), advocacy partner FEFPEB on this item

#### Valipac – extended producer responsibility Industrial Packaging – recycling obligations

By Francis Huysman (B), Managing Director Valipac

#### Artificial Intelligence – opportunities for the wooden pallet and packaging industry

By Thierry Moubax (B), Marketing expert Business Development and Innovation

#### Congress round up and closing

By Rob van Hoesel (NL), President FEFPEB

#### IMPORTANT

- Participants: Take care of your congress registration and hotel accommodation in order to avoid disappointment
- Sponsors / suppliers: join the group of sponsors and take advantage of your support
- Ahead now for the most important industry event of the year!



### 2. EUDR / state of affairs

Following clarifications regarding the content of the EUDR ([click here for the FEFPEB newsletter April 2023](#)), and the update during the FEFPEB spring meeting end of May 2024 ([click here](#)) we can note that the ongoing pressure by a wide range of stakeholders on the European Commission to postpone the implementation / enforcement date of the EUDR to allow every involved party to adhere properly to the Regulation.

CEI Bois noted on the outcome of a meeting end of June 2024 with DG ENVI the following:

The following organisations attended this meeting: COPA-COGECA (organiser), CEI-Bois/EOS, CEPI, EUSTAFOR, CEPF, FEDIOL, ELO, and FEFAC.

#### Main take home messages

- The EU Commission (EC) underlined, one more time, that they do not see the need for any delay in the implementation!
- The EC emphasised that it is in line with the timeframe stipulated in the Regulation and that - as written in the Regulation - countries benchmarking must be done by the end of December 2024 (*Article 29 mandates the Commission to develop a system and publish the list of countries, or parts thereof, no later than 18 months after the entry into force of the Regulation when the main obligations of the Regulation kick in.*)
- The API Conformance Tests (CF) for the Information System had revealed that it will be easy to upload information in the Information System.
- If any of your Company Members participated in the API conformance test and faced any issue, please let FEFPEB know in know in order to inform the EU Commission and CEI Bois;
- **Frequently Asked Questions document:** 60 new Q&As are expected to be added to the revised version of the Frequently Asked Questions document. Additional 40 Q&As will be then published in September 2024. Prior submitting new questions, stakeholders are invited to wait for the publication of the revised document containing the additional 60 questions and answers. For what concerns the publication of the Frequently Asked Questions revised document, the EC informed that the document is "blocked at the highest level" and there is no "green light" for publishing it yet.
- **Grace period.** From the discussion occurred during the meeting, we perceived that if **Member States will authorise a grace period the EU Commission won't oppose to this decision.**
- **To be noticed:** The EC did not explain what "grace period means". Indeed, grace period could mean: *a period in which fines are accrued but not charged or a period in which fines are not accrued (and not charged).*

Furthermore, a Joint Statement has been made by a coalition of organisations, including CEI-Bois, in order to reiterate the concerns of the EUDR's commodities. More specifically, the joint statement underlines that *"it is of utmost importance that the European Commission takes the time needed to reconsider the timeline and readiness for the implementation of the Regulation. The European Commission needs to build a common understanding of the implications of the Regulation for all Member States and actors, including SMEs, and set in place effective and efficient compliance tools."*

The Joint Statement ([click here](#)) has been sent to the Commission President, EP President, Hungarian Presidency, and Agriculture & Environmental ministries – at EU level.

Despite all efforts to convince the EC to delay the enforcement date, our industry needs to be prepared to comply with the EUDR.

These are (again) relevant links:

[Regulation - 2023/1115 - FN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

[FAQ-Deforestation Regulation FN.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

The manufacturers and repairers of WPM will be regarded as **operators**.  
If a company is purely carrying out trading business then this is regarded a **trader**.

See definitions in article 1 EUDR:

**'operator'** means any natural or legal person who, in the course of a commercial activity, places relevant products on the market or exports them;

**'trader'** means any person in the supply chain other than the operator who, in the course of a commercial activity, makes relevant products available on the market;

Depending on the size of your company the administrative burden will be more or less severe.  
Below SME (net turnover < 40M, employees < 250, balance total < 20 M – 2 out of these 3 categories applicable) less obligations.

But still a **Due Diligence System** needs to be in place to assemble information from your timber supplier on:

Tree species  
Harvesting country  
Geo location plots of harvest land  
Date en volume of harvest  
Evidence of legally harvesting  
Wood must be deforestation free

We keep on following the developments and will communicate, at the FEFPEB congress (25-27 September 2024 in Belgium) the EUDR item is on the agenda.

### 3. CEI Bois

[Click here for the CEI Bois Avocacy Focus July 2024](#)



For now, we wish you a very good summer holiday period.

Best regards,

Fons Ceelaert  
Secretary general

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