



# EU Bioeconomy Strategy: Towards a Circular, Regenerative and Competitive Bioeconomy

## Position Paper

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## Introduction

The European laminate flooring sector, represented by the **European Producers of Laminate Flooring association (EPLF)**, is dedicated to enabling a **more sustainable future**. Our members are committed to driving innovation and promoting environmentally conscious practices. We seek to build a world where flooring is not only synonymous with **quality** and **aesthetic appeal** but also with **environmental responsibility** and **sustainability**.

### Our goals are to:

- Drive forward sustainable and innovative production methods for laminate flooring.
- Ensure laminate plays a key role in affordable and sustainable European housing.
- Invest in research and development, with a focus on durability, design, and circular solutions.
- Strengthen European manufacturing, secure jobs, and support local economies.

## Towards a Circular, Regenerative and Competitive Bioeconomy

**EPLF welcomes the possibility to provide feedback on the call for evidence on the initiative “Towards a Circular, Regenerative and Competitive Bioeconomy”.** EPLF and its members believe in the importance of a solid and consistent bioeconomy policy for the construction sector, and are deeply committed to integrating wood-based laminate flooring into the broader bioeconomy framework.

Overall, the forest sector significantly contributes to the transition towards a carbon-neutral and circular bioeconomy, and a climate-positive society, offering sustainably produced, renewable and recyclable raw materials that can be used for high-value innovative products.

In the specific case of laminate flooring, the wood used is intrinsically sustainable as it comes from sustainably managed forestry and crooked wood from road maintenance, offering a viable alternative to fossil based or non-renewable materials. As such, **laminate flooring plays an important role in the cascading use of wood** and has all the positive environmental impact of wood products. **Decarbonisation is also in our DNA**, as trees absorb carbon, and laminate flooring is made with wood, it is in essence a carbon capture mechanism, and on average, the sector captures over 200k tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, removing carbon from the atmosphere for min 25 years.<sup>1</sup>

However, the following **barriers should be addressed in order to unlock the full potential of the bioeconomy**, especially for our sector:

### 1. Regulatory barriers

- Create an enabling, consistent and effective legal framework for sustainable integrated

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<sup>1</sup> See '[Technical Bulletin R-Strategies and Lifespan of Laminate Floor Coverings](#)', 11/2024

wood-based value chains.

- Encourage and advance wood-related programs and initiatives at European and national level, aimed at supporting the transition towards a circular bioeconomy.
- Develop and adapt norms and standards to support the use of wood and wood-based products.
- Promote participatory processes, enabling stakeholders to engage in the development of forest and wood-related policies.

## **2. Market and economic barriers**

- Foster investment in bio-based technologies, unlocking new funds and opportunities.
- Eliminate market and technical barriers to trade for European wood producers and facilitate the adoption and recognition of international, EU and national standards.

## **3. Educational barriers**

- Promote education and training in sustainable construction practices.
- Increase attention and public interest in the potential of wood, wood-based products, and the wood-based value chain.

It is only by overcoming these challenges, that Europe will be able to advance towards a truly Circular, Regenerative and Competitive Bioeconomy.

The EPLF would welcome any future opportunity of engagement with policymakers and other stakeholders that may be launched in the upcoming months, to provide additional views and feedback.

*The EPLF® is an non-profit association that serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas and experience between producers of laminate flooring and their supplier industries. The members of EPLF® account for approx. 50% of the global market and more than 80% of the European market. It represents 15 laminate producers from eight European countries, 25 suppliers to the laminate flooring industry and renowned testing institutes. The focus of the association's work revolves around research, development, the introduction of standards, representation at international trade fairs and representation of interests, evaluation of statistical data and active press office and public relations work.*

[www.eplf.com](http://www.eplf.com)