

## **Letter to MEPs from *Association of Wood-based Panels Manufacturers in Poland***

*dr inż. Jędrzej Kasprzak President of the Association of Wood-based Panels Manufacturers in Poland.*

"In connection with the legislative work currently under way in the European Parliament on the revision of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, we as producers of wood-based panels would like to emphasise that we believe that subsidies for the burning of primary forest biomass in the energy sector should be stopped and that the energy thus generated should no longer be considered as coming from renewable sources. The burning of secondary forest biomass should only be supported if it cannot be used by industry to produce wood products, i.e. after the cascading principle has been fully applied.

The most important point is that the burning of wood which gains the status of energy wood will be subsidised. This involves subsidies from the state budget, i.e. from citizens, for the operation of energy companies in which the State is not the sole shareholder.

As a result, the power industry gains a competitive advantage over other market participants, i.e. timber entrepreneurs, when purchasing wood from the State Forests.

We believe that it is wasteful to use for energy purposes any kind of wood fibre that can be used as a raw material for further processing in industry. All the more reason why such raw material should not be subsidised.

We would like to strongly emphasise that for the production of chipboard, fibreboard and MDF production, wood of lower quality may be used, e.g. recycled wood, drought wood, wood with a limited degree of decay, as well as post-production residues of sawmill processing, i.e. sawdust, chips, edgings. The above-mentioned types of wood constitute full-value raw material for the production of wood-based panels.

The consequences of subsidised wood combustion for energy generation will adversely affect both the condition of businesses using it in the production of wood-based panels and the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As a result of competition between the subsidised energy industry and the wood processing industry, the industry's production capacity is reduced.

The greenhouse gas binding effect in finished products will also be significantly reduced. Lumber, boards, furniture, floor panels and all wood and paper products bind CO<sub>2</sub> for many years. In this carbon reduction process, wood is used efficiently. Burning wood for energy production can only take place at the end of the chain of use and recycling of the raw material. The simple combustion of forest wood for energy, which the proposed amendment will enable, significantly shortens the cycle in which carbon dioxide is retained in finished products.

The domestic panel industry ranks 2nd in Europe and 7th in the world in terms of production and is, among other things, the basis for the development and power of the domestic furniture industry, which contributes almost 3% to GDP.

The war in Ukraine has caused a serious shortage of wood on the Polish market. Therefore, it is particularly important to properly treat wood in any form as a strategic raw material for the Polish wood industry."

*dr inż. Jędrzej Kasprzak President of the Association of Wood-based Panels Manufacturers in Poland.*