

**Honourable Executive Vice-President Ribera,**

The upcoming EU Bioeconomy Strategy plays a pivotal role in advancing the Union's climate objectives, industrial competitiveness, and rural development—particularly in forest-rich Member States.

The forest-based sector is a key enabler of climate-smart innovation. Firstly, it produces long-lived wood products that store carbon, substitute fossil-based materials, and promote circular economy principles. Secondly, the sector contributes to Europe's energy security and industrial resilience.

Bioeconomy is also of strategic importance for strengthening the EU's security of supply and self-sufficiency. The forest-based bioeconomy reduces reliance on imported fossil-based raw materials. It enables the domestic production of essential goods—including construction materials, packaging, textiles, and bio-based fuels—thereby enhancing resilience in times of global disruption and supporting the EU's broader goals of open strategic autonomy.

In light of these contributions, it is essential that the revised EU Bioeconomy Strategy fully acknowledges the role of the forest-based value chain and supports coherent regulation, targeted investment, and cross-sectoral collaboration. A robust and forward-looking strategy will not only accelerate the EU's climate transition but also empower forestry regions to lead in sustainable industrial transformation.

**In this context, we respectfully ask:**

- As the EU revises its Bioeconomy Strategy, how will you ensure that it fully recognises the climate and circular economy contributions of the forest-based value chain?
- How will the strategy reflect the role of long-lived wood products in carbon storage and fossil material substitution?
- Could you clarify whether the Commission is considering the introduction of new biomass sustainability criteria under the revised Bioeconomy Strategy, and if so, how they would align with existing EU frameworks and the operational realities of the forest-based sector and improve resource efficiency and to tap the significant growth potential of bio-based materials substituting fossil-based materials?
- In what ways will the revised strategy help to unlock the full potential of the bioeconomy to contribute to the EU's climate objectives, regional development, and strategic autonomy?

We thank you for your attention to these matters and would welcome the opportunity to engage in further dialogue at your convenience.

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