



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

@Marcpalahí

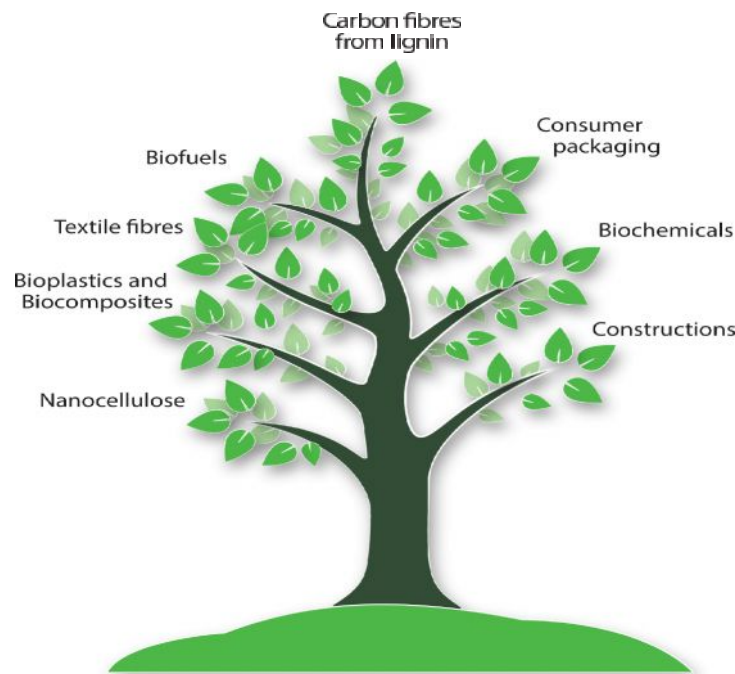
European forests: EU's most important Natural Capital

4th December, 2017
EU Parliament, Brussels

www.efi.int



Forests, our most important biological infrastructure



- **Resilient urban and rural communities**
 - key for the sustainability of biodiversity, water and soil resources
 - climate change mitigation effect equivalent to 10% of the EU carbon emissions
- **Towards a fossil-free economy**
 - main source of non-food renewable biological resources
 - basis for a circular bioeconomy



Socio-economic relevance of EU forest-based sector

	Textiles Industry	Plastics Industry	Steel Industry	Forest-based industries
Turnover value (in billion euros)	166	320	170	486
Employment (millions of workers)	1.70	1.45	0.33	3.5

Key for inclusive growth: 415 thousand enterprises & 16 million forest owners



Wood, trees and forests: the backbone of climate smart cities

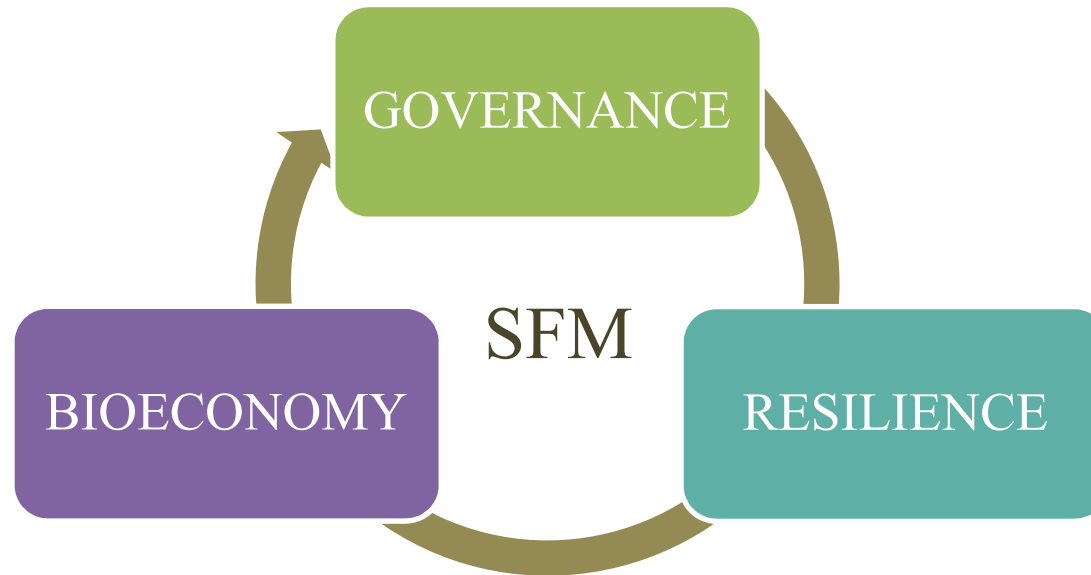
Wood is the only significant construction material that is renewable

- Reduces by **50% CO2 emissions and material use** compare to a concrete & steel building
- **Trees and urban forests** reduce the energy needs of buildings for cooling and heating as well as the “urban heat island” effect





Towards a forest virtuous cycle





Relevant references at:

At EFI from **Science to Policy series**, which brings together cross-boundary scientific knowledge to strengthen forest-related science-policy dialogue.

[From Science to Policy](#)

[Open letter from Director Marc Palahí](#)