

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3128/10
by Riikka Manner (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Promoting the use of renewable materials in building

The European Union has promoted the use of renewable energy sources by means of binding objectives. Similarly it has taken joint decisions to increase the proportion of biofuels in transport fuels. The use of renewable raw materials in energy production is based on minimising emissions and achieving the most sustainable energy economy possible.

The construction industry is an area in which no broad political debate on the sustainable production and use of raw materials has been held. As a material, wood is particularly environmentally friendly and, if it were more widely used, it would serve as an important step on the way to sustainable development in the building sector. Comprehensive research has been carried out on the future prospects for the development of this sector. It is known that timber construction acts as an excellent carbon sink compared to other forms of construction.

There would be good reason for timber construction to become one of the foundations for large-scale green growth in Europe. If timber construction skills were to become more widespread, it could make its own independent contribution to the future of the European economy.

Does the Commission regard timber construction as an important additional element on the road towards a comprehensively sustainable European economy? Does the Commission propose to promote timber construction by means of objectives binding on the Member States, as has been done with energy production?