

## **EU wood factories down tools in protest against unfair subsidies**

Tuesday November 2, 2010

**Organisation coordinates protests across Europe and invites politicians and media to visit local facilities to witness the negative impact governmental subsidies have on the industry**



*EPF : Use the wood before burning it*

According to the European Panel Federation (EPF) some 150 wood panel manufacturing facilities stopped production and opened their doors to local politicians and members of media as part of Friday's European Action Day (29 October). EPF coordinated the day to provide its members with a united platform through which they could protest against government subsidies that lead to a huge increase of the direct burning of woody biomass.

The purpose of the events is to expose the unintended consequences of subsidies for the energy use of woody biomass, unintentionally putting the wood-based panel sector and the entire woodworking industries at risk.



“Great progress has been made by the EU's efforts to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as well as the sustainable management of forests, but now we must accept that the raft of policy in these areas has unintentionally created some highly damaging situations” said **Ladislaus Döry**, President of the European Panel Federation. “Our focus has to shift towards a renewable materials policy that sustainably mobilises increased wood quantities, encourages greater recycling, and ensures the competitiveness of the industry. It is important that policymakers address this oversight today, or risk solid wood biomass becoming the next biofuels debacle.”

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