



“We have all the elements in our industry, the willingness and the potential to contribute, to be part of the solution to climate change.”

Teresa Presas, Managing Director of [CEPI](#) (Confederation of European Paper Industries), will be a key-note speaker on Opportunities for Development at the XIII World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

Teresa Presas
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Rome, FAO Headquarters - Three crises occurred in 2008 — the energy crisis, financial crisis and food crisis. They are deep, interconnected, and have been brewing for a long time. Three global crises: how can they be overcome? Ms Presas says that, in order to do so, society must move beyond and reinvent itself by drawing from the lessons of nature’s cycles to prosper in the future. The forest products industry has the potential to provide a model for sustainable production and consumption that meets society’s needs within nature’s carrying capacity. The sector’s reliance on rural areas and in turn the livelihood that communities take from industrial needs as well as its long standing commitment to sustainability, are a dynamic driver for prosperity.

Q) Could the pulp and paper industry be part of a green solution to climate change mitigation?

A) The UN Panel on Climate Change, concluded in its 4th Assessment Report that, **sustainable forest management with a good balance and yield of timber, fibre and energy is certainly the best way to mitigate climate change and I think that says it all. This is where our industry plays in terms of mitigation of climate change. Obviously, energy efficiency, improvements in renewable energy use in industrial installations of our sector, and reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, are also part of our very important role and this is an ongoing business, a continuous improvement exercise. So, **ours is a unique industry when it comes to mitigating climate change. We are probably the biggest producers and users of renewable energy from biomass of all the industrial sectors. So we have all the elements in our industry, the willingness and the potential to contribute, to be part of the solution to climate change.****

Q) The increasing competition between wood for bio-energy and for the paper industry presents a new challenge: how much bio-energy can be produced without harming the environment or competing with the food chain?

A) From a European perspective, sustainable energy and security of energy supply are top political priorities, because we’re using the raw material that is at the core of the European policy priorities which is wood. **Wood is the most precious raw material that you can have, because it delivers a number of benefits, it is natural, renewable, recyclable, it can be used in an increase number of applications and new technologies. **There are two main principles** which we believe should inform our policy for supporting wood for bio-energy, without distorting competition, and keep a market balance: one is the **need to mobilise more wood** and the other is **getting all the value added out of the it**. Getting more wood out of the forests is the first thing in order to ensure enough material is available for the different users. That of course has to deliver environmental performance, and when mobilising more wood we must keep environmental protection in mind. Sustainable forest management is the answer, which is practiced by all companies owning forest in Europe. **There are technologies which allow more wood to be available while respecting the principles of sustainable forest management.****

Delivering added value is another key principle for the equation wood/energy: when you have wood as a raw material, it is a waste of resources and a waste of added value to burn it immediately for energy; **there are intermediate processes like, making paper and using that paper that adds value** to society and to the economy. **Those are the two key principles** where, if implemented, **the competition between wood for energy and wood for paper producing would be very much minimized**, whilst respecting the imperatives of economy, society and environment.

When it comes to competition with the food chain, this is another critical aspect, because, **in Europe you have a Common Agriculture Policy**, which uses around 50% of the European Union budget. Those subsidies can also be put at use to supporting farmers for other activities such as forestry and **in second generation bio-fuels**. From a European point of view, it's worth noticing that **this issue has to be addressed in an integrated way: it involves agriculture policy, energy policy, fiscal policy, environmental policy, forestry policy, trade policy, food policy**, which is something policy makers often find it difficult to do.... It becomes increasingly obvious that the question of land use will be critical in the coming decades. In short it is about using the fields for food, fibre and fuel. Only the most sustainable and resource efficient uses of land will allow for the provision of the three of them.

Teresa Presas is Managing Director of [CEPI](#). *A Brussels-based, non profit organization comprising 16 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland, CEPI's mission is to promote the members' business sector by monitoring and analyzing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general.*