

European perspective: A view for the present day and for the future

**Anders Ek, Chairman CEI Bois
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The European political play field

The European Parliament:

- 751 MEP's decide daily upon new laws and regulations
- **CEI Bois focus is promotion and positive wood messages towards the majority of the MEP's**

The European Commission

- The Commission is organised in 30 DG's (Directorate Generale), whereof 5-6 are of main interest to the Wood Working Industry (Agri, Clima, Energy, Environment, Grow and Trade)
- **CEI Bois focus on knowledge based and technical support in order to support the EC preparation of its proposals, regulation and directives**

Advocacy (lobby) structure

- Advocacy Specialists that help the civil servants with necessary information and consequence descriptions
- Advocacy Platforms, acknowledged by the EC, as speaking partners for a specific sector. The Platforms can normally reach higher in the EC than individual advocacy specialists
- **CEI Bois is the advocacy platform for the European Wood Working Industry, representing 4 Sector Federations and 20 National Federations**

Increased wood construction in Europe is one of the major objective for CEI Bois

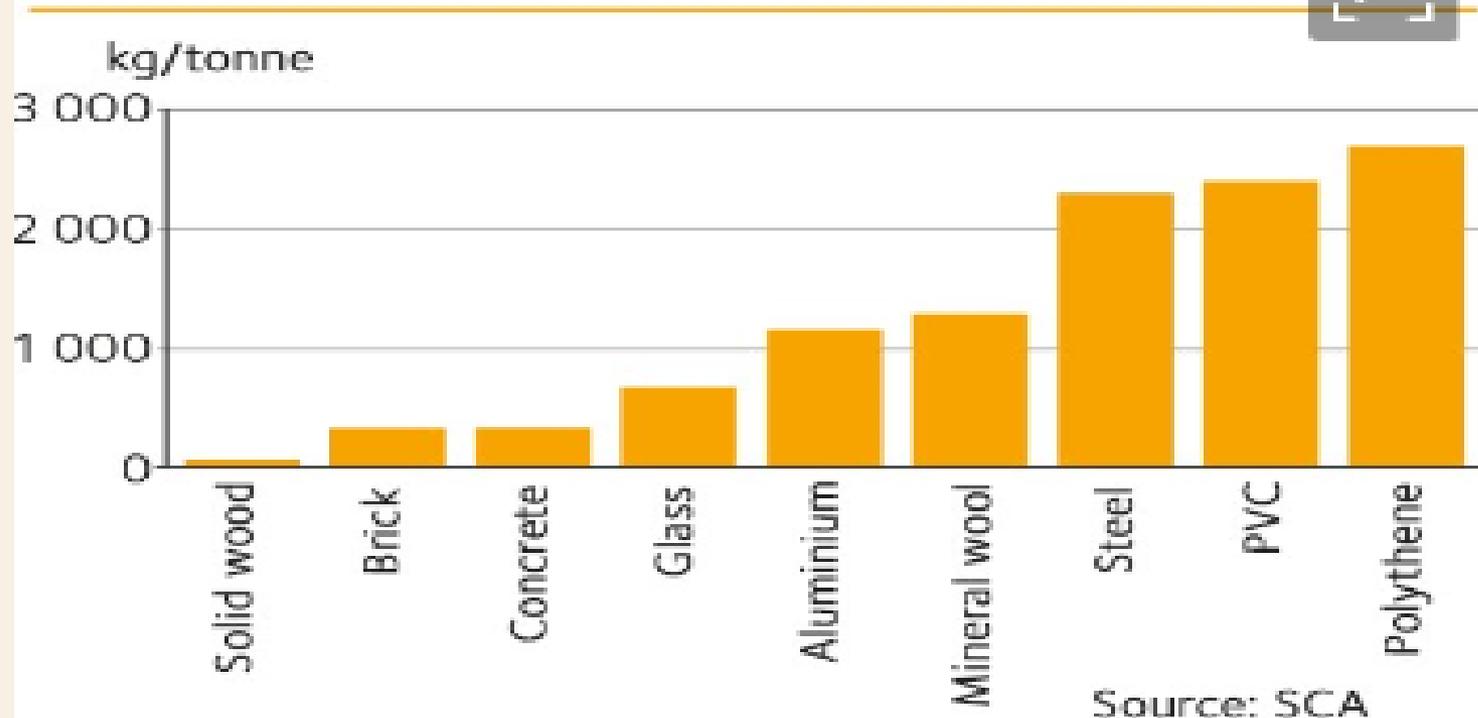
CEI Bois and its members focus advocacy work into mainly two areas:

1. **Promotion of Wood Construction** in order to make the EC and the EP as positive as possible towards Wood Construction
2. **Find solutions to technical and legislative questions** in order to create positive conditions for, and to avoid barriers against, Wood Construction

The ultimate goal is to influence decision makers to agree systems and procedures that favours Wood Construction in lieu of traditional construction practices

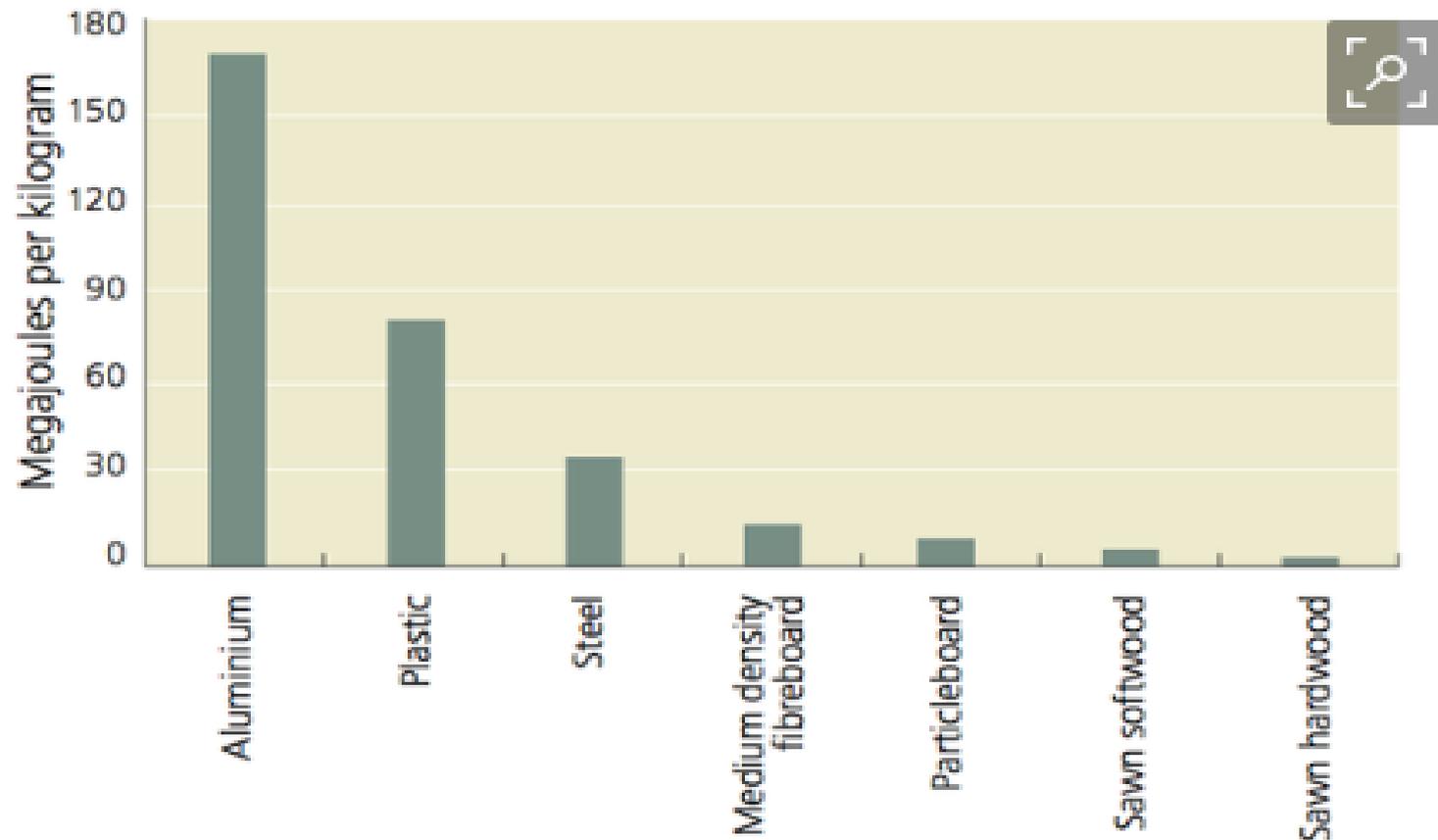
The promotion work is focused upon wood as a renewable material that will support Europe's move to Bioeconomy

Diagram 7 Carbon emissions from manufacture of construction materials



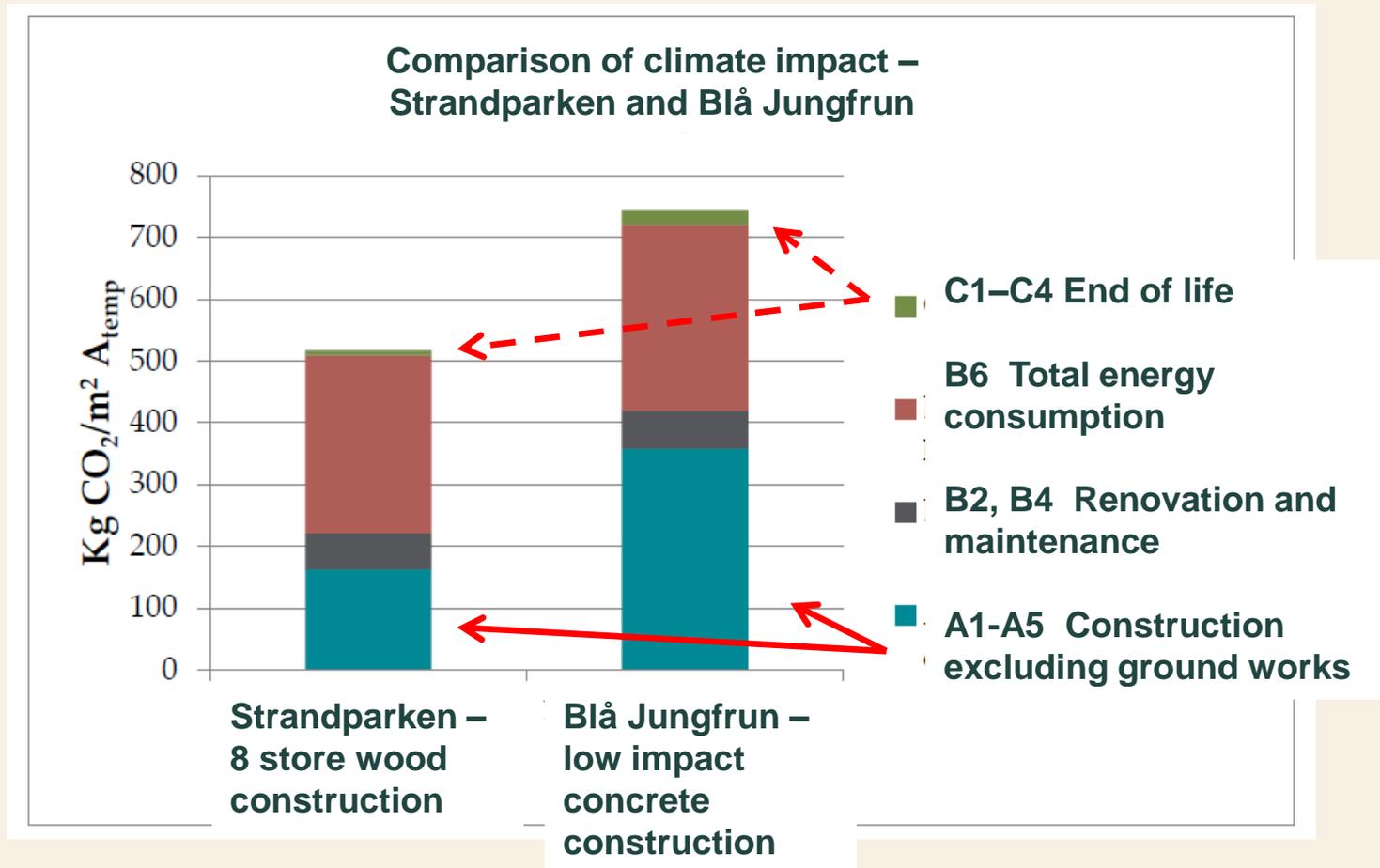
The values above may vary depending on numerous factors, including energy type, transport and production methods. A Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) usually compares functional units such as kg/m² floor area in a floor structure. Carbon storage in wood is not reported in this diagram.

Low energy consumption and low emissions can be added to the positive features of constructing with wood – and carbon sink



Source: Taylor, J and Van Langenberg, K 2004, *Review of the environmental impact of wood compared with alternative products used in the production of furniture*, Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation.

A recent Swedish large scale LCA comparison (wood – concrete) shows 33% reduction in climate impact when using wood (50 year perspective).



Source: The Swedish Construction Federation

Technical and legislative questions (1 of 2)

- CPR (Construction Products Regulation) aims at creating harmonized conditions inside the EU. This as a Legislative framework, prevent barriers to trade and ensure transparency and trust.
 - We ask the EU to swiftly move towards the Delegated act for indoor VOC, December 2017 version, in order to create a single market for construction products
 - We ask the EC/EP to push for a minor, smooth and target oriented revision of the current CPR legislation (in order to avoid industrially costly national deviations)
- LCA-based CEN and ISO standardization
 - We ask for a nationally and sector neutral format for EPD's and PEF's
 - We ask for a scientifically sound treatment of environmental characteristics (for wood e.g. sun as the material constructor through biosynthesis and CO2 sequestration in the material)

Technical and legislative questions (2 of 2)

- As said - we support an EU harmonized sustainable building assessment. Therefore we support the EC initiated EC LCA pilot project on construction:
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
 - Resource efficient and circular construction materials
 - Efficient use of water resource
 - Healthy and comfortable living
 - Adaptation and resilience to climate change
 - Life cycle cost and value

Our main target on political level is to raise our ability (vision starts to be accepted) to reduce the climate impact from construction

- In construction there exist already since a long time the analogy to the automotive industry low emission car, alternatively hybrid car – which is wood construction, alternatively wood hybrid construction. The development of automotive in sustainable direction is receiving different subsidies, at least on country level, while the wood construction does not receive any similar support
- Wood even add value by having the ability to create carbon storage, not at a high cost level such as for CCS, but in-built in our material. This is today not valued at all, although many argues that there exist a market price for carbon capture based on CCS, which wood does not benefit from.

To sum it up...

The European Wood Working Industry sector has the potential to:

- Deliver major contributions to today's worldwide challenges (climate change.....)
- Deliver high-tech and problem-free timber structures, especially in new applications like multistory buildings in urban environments etc.....
- Realize, subject political support, unified building codes. Benchmark models already exist, e.g. "Musterbauordnungen" (model building codes) for timber construction

We argue that European politicians should favour reduced climate impact and carbon storage by providing incentives to wood construction, since it could reduce the burden from other sectors (i.e. carbon storage for energy industry) and reduced emissions from society as a whole.

Hybrid car incentives could be seen as a viable model ??

THANK YOU !!