

8 November 2024

European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Pulp and Paper Industries

An EU Industrial Deal focused on
ensuring quality jobs in the European
Pulp and Paper sector

Joint Statement

As Europe must now embark on the path towards a just Green Transition via an Industrial Deal for high-quality jobs, it is imperative to acknowledge the important role played by the pulp and paper industries and its workers in the transformation. The pulp and paper sector keeps leading the low-carbon circular and bioeconomy transition, and it should be a model of sustainable development. From forest fibre technology to advanced materials, wood-based industries represent 20% of manufacturing enterprises across the European Union. This creates €143 billion added value per year for the European economy. The European paper sector currently accounts for 22% of world production, with an annual investment of over €5 billion in Europe. Our sector directly employs over 180,000 people, while the wider European forest-based value chain provides employment to 4 million workers.

The European Social Partners in the pulp and paper sector, industriAll Europe and Cepi, call for EU policies that will secure the future of the sector and keep future-proof, high-quality jobs in Europe. A **quality job** should be understood as one that provides a decent wage, ensures work-life balance, respects physical and

psychological health and safety standards, and considers the conditions of both direct employees and those in subcontracting and supply chains.

Maintaining the strength of the European industry is vital for ensuring sustainable growth and quality jobs in Europe. This is especially important in today's context of intense global competition, rising energy costs, the green transition and the demographic changes. The maintenance of quality jobs is a crucial element for **building a more resilient society**, paving the way to a more just, peaceful, sustainable, and forward-looking transition.

We, the Social Partners of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Pulp and Paper Industries, are signatories to the [Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal](#). Additionally, we have specifically signed up to a [joint statement "An Industrial Deal focused on ensuring quality industrial jobs in Europe" dedicated to the social dimension](#) of an EU Industrial Deal. The social dimension of an Industrial Deal is vital to ensure its success. This is why we call in this statement to: **(1)** Ensure a Just Transition for our industries and workforce with a strong Industrial Policy, which should not be to the detriment of the EU's environmental and societal goals, **(2)** Develop a re-skilling and upskilling agenda, **(3)** Promote social dialogue and involve social partners in the transition, **(4)** Ensure a stable and coherent regulatory environment for our Industries.

The European Social Partners reiterate that the availability of financial resources is necessary to stimulate industrial investment in innovative green and digital technologies and production methods in Europe, boost R&D, with guarantees to ensure the retention and creation of quality jobs, while ensuring a fair distribution of the wealth created. Strict criteria on access to EU funds should promote

a fair transformation of our industries, focusing on social cohesion, quality employment and promotion of social dialogue.

The European Social Partners will work on implementing this joint statement with their respective members, and expect to continue working on this, together, and with national and European policy makers. They commit to do so in the future work of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for the Pulp and Paper Industries. We have applied for an EU-funded project on future-proof jobs to support social dialogue in the sector and ensure the sustainable future of the Industries and give concrete solutions to workers and companies in the years to come.

Judith Kirton-Darling General Secretary of
industriAll Europe

Jori Ringman, Director General of Cepi