

# Facts & Figures:

- In Europe, over 25 million cubic metres of timber are used every year in pallets and packaging.
- Europe produces about 100 million cubic metres of sawn timber.
- The average lifespan of a timber pallet is between 5 and 7 years.
- Approximately 90% of pallets are manufactured from timber.
- A high percentage of timber pallets are recycled or rebuilt.
- In Europe over four billion wooden pallets are in circulation. This means 108 billion kgs of CO<sub>2</sub> are stored in the wood.
- It is estimated that the contribution of 10.3 million tonnes of increased biomass for energy purposes, provided until 2010, prevented about 12.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being released had the same amount of energy been produced with coal.



- Burning wood is carbon neutral, a fact well understood by the wood industry, which derives up to 75% of the energy it uses to process wood from wood by-products.
- European forests, where over 90% of Europe's timber comes from, are being developed on a sustainable basis so they are replanted with more trees than are harvested. This total planted area is increasing by an area the size of Cyprus (approx 802,000 hectares) each year.
- All European pallets comply with the Phytosanitary Requirements (ISPM15). This requires heat treatment of 56C° for 30 minutes at least.
- Recent studies show bacteria have a greater survival rate on plastics than on wood.
- It is a common misconception that the use of wood pallets results in deforestation. Although new wood pallets (used primarily for non-standard sizes) are made from virgin lumber, trees are rarely cut down to make pallets. Instead, trees are cut down to produce more valuable items such as building materials and furniture. New wood pallets are built from the downfall (unattractive lumber) that is left over from this process, which is typically discarded if not made into pallets.

