



REOPENS ITS DOORS FROM 17>19 JUNE

PRESS RELEASE

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European forestry and logging professionals will come together at **FOREXPO** in Mimizan (Landes) from 17 to 19 June 2020.

This 26th edition of the exhibition focuses on the woodworking professions which, in France alone, account for 440 000 job.

— MIMIZAN, AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WOOD SECTOR IN EUROPE

It is the fourth time that Mimizan is to welcome this **four-yearly exhibition launched in 1962**, which was renamed FOREXPO in 1990, on a site of 70 ha, at the heart of the largest cultivated forest. For the 30th anniversary of the FOREXPO format, **around 400 exhibitors** (17 % of whom are foreigners and 500 international brands) are expected on the 3 km loop which now makes up the traditional exhibition circuit. **Nearly 40 000m² of exhibition space is spread over 5 zones:** soil preparation and reforestation, logging, transport and logistics, wood for energy, and services. This 26th edition aims to welcome just as many visitors as in the past, i.e. 30 000 persons, **around a subject which unites them, namely the wood professions.**



“ **FOREXPO** is a team, a little group which, by pooling its competences, wishes to make this exhibition the not-to-be-missed event for our sector. For this edition, we have two ambitions: to provide more services to exhibitors and visitors in order to strengthen our position as leader in France for exclusively professional forestry exhibitions, and to acknowledge the central role played by women and men, mainly young people, in forestry and logging. Despite mechanisation and innovation, it will always be humans making the decisions in view of economic and environmental challenges.

Éric Dumontet
Director of **FOREXPO**

— WOOD PROFESSIONS: JOBS OF THE FUTURE

With 16,5 million ha of forest, France is the 3rd biggest forestry nation in the EU. The wood sector has 60 000 businesses and accounts for **440 000 jobs in France**: 51 000 employees in forest management, logging and sawing, 236 000 employees in wood processing (paneling, paper, cardboard), 138 000 posts in woodworking (carpentry, joinery, design). Above all, it offers **numerous opportunities to young people**, irrespective of their level of education. It is these job prospects which FOREXPO wished to highlight in the 2020 edition, in particular through its programme of conferences and round tables.

Too often unrecognised by young people, wood professions offer a large range of possibilities: from logging, which gives nature-lovers the chance to work outdoors, to consultancies whose designers create furniture and houses, to sawmills and woodwork studios for those who enjoy direct contact with the material. These professions, which have been transformed thanks to the many innovations in the sector, are showing **full employment and rapid career development possibilities**. Since VSEs (very small enterprises) with fewer than 10 employees account for 80 % of the sector, it is possible to be autonomous and versatile, and quickly start to work in a self-employed capacity, which is a much sought-after criterion for young workers. What is more, **the wood sector caters for a major source of motivation among young people – the chance to work at the heart of nature**. Indeed, the third Talents barometer of the Boston Consulting Group (published in January 2020) reveals that the most popular sectors for young jobseekers are headed by the environment, with 76 % of votes, and growing popularity year on year.

— THE WOOD SECTOR, AN ACTIVITY WHICH PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to sustainable and rational exploitation, French forestry is developing. Professionals ensure its renewal: only half of its production is harvested. **Wood is a renewable and recyclable material** which has advantages at each stage in its life cycle. It is a thermal insulator and **can reduce energy expenditure in the construction industry**. In its natural or processed state, **1 m³ of wood captures one tonne of CO₂, making the air healthier**. Lastly, for 1 kg of material produced, **wood consumes 4 times less energy than concrete, 60 times less than steel and 30 times less than aluminum** (source: Onisep). These are arguments which appeal to young people, more and more of whom are attaching importance to the protection of the environment.



FOREXPO 
IS THE EUROPEAN
FORESTRY AND LOGGING
EXHIBITION, CREATED IN
1962. SINCE 2012, IT HAS
TAKEN PLACE AT THE
HEART OF THE LANDES OF
GASCOGNE, IN MIMIZAN.

SOME FIGURES

- **392** exhibitors, including 68 foreign exhibitors
- **500** international brands
- Around **40 000** m² of exhibition space
- **28 000** visitors
- **15** countries represented
- **14** conferences and round tables

The wood sector covers activities from agriculture (forestry and logging), industry (woodworking, furniture production, paper industry, packaging) or construction (carpentry and joinery businesses, production of parquet and panels, etc.).

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