

Enough wood in Europe

European forests have enough wood to meet the increasing demand for the product, says professor of European Forests Gert-Jan Nabuurs. 'There is more wood in European forests than since the late Middle Ages.'

'If Eastern European countries such as Ukraine and Belarus are included, wood stocks in Europe amount to nearly 35 billion cubic metres,' says Nabuurs. 'Growth is adding one billion cubic metres annually, whereas the harvest each year is just 600 million cubic metres.' Even so, global wood prices rose last year. Many Europeans have been doing up their houses since the Covid pandemic started, and new houses are being built. This is

part of the reason for the rising demand for wood, while sawmill capacity has failed to keep pace with demand for years, says Nabuurs. He expects processing capacity to increase in the next one to two years. In the long term, we will need to keep investing in new forests and sound forestry management. 'Wood will only become more important in a fossil-free world.'

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