

PRESS RELEASE – 13/07/2021 – Brussels

BPC and Wood Shapers join forces to build the tallest timber building in the Brussels Region

BPC, a general contractor and major player in the construction sector in Brussels and Wallonia for the past 150 years, and Wood Shapers, a new branch of the CFE group specialising in timber construction and already very active in Luxembourg, will jointly build the Monteco project for Leasinvest Real Estate, in the heart of the European quarter. Due to its 8-storey wooden structure design, this office project is considered the tallest wooden building in the Brussels Region. PEFC certified, the wood used originates within a 500 km radius from the building site.

In Belgium, there is great demand for new sustainable projects. “There is the will and the need to move towards high-end energy efficient buildings. Landlords, and now tenants as well, are demanding sustainable buildings, based on materials that are just as sustainable.” explains Alexander Hodac, CEO of BPC.

“While Monteco is not BPC's first timber project, its scope is critical. Indeed, it marks an important milestone by giving shape to our strategy of investing more in new construction methods. As the construction market evolves and questions its environmental impact, we want to become an actor of change, offer solutions and support the market in its approach. We are therefore adding timber frame constructions to our catalogue of skills and able to offer a wide range of construction options. Obviously, our collaboration with Wood Shapers is key in integrating this expertise into our company. The combination of our historical skills will no doubt be a major asset for the Monteco project and the future projects that we will carry out together.” Alexander Hodac, CEO of BPC

The challenge of the Monteco project lies in its wooden structure. The 3,674 m² building will rise eight floors above ground, with the last two floors as a recessed monolith to make room for a large roof terrace. With the exception of the precast solid concrete core, the entire structure of the Monteco building will be made of timber, left exposed. In this partnership, BPC, a long-standing player in construction in Brussels and Wallonia, and Wood Shapers, a specialist in timber construction, optimise and complement each other's crucial competencies for the success of a project of this scale.

“The BPC - Wood Shapers partnership is a strategic choice and one that will last. Wood has technical virtues that are not the same as those of concrete. It is lighter and offers more possibilities for prefabrication in a factory. Timber construction therefore requires more upstream preparation, as it involves more orders and interfaces. However, it is not possible to build everything out of wood. You have to balance the proportion of timber in the construction and combine it with traditionally used materials such as concrete or steel, in order to use the right material in the right place. BPC's skills are therefore critical for the success of the work.” Arnaud Regout, CEO of Wood Shapers

Both BPC and Wood Shapers stress the excellent collaboration between the entities of the CFE group, and in particular VMA for the multi-technical aspects, as well as with ION, Leasinvest Real Estate and Archi 2000.

About Wood Shapers

Founded in 2020 as a joint venture between BPI Real Estate and CFE Contracting, Wood Shapers is a Belgian and Luxembourg company. Our ambition: to rethink the real estate sector by implementing a sustainable development approach through the optimisation of construction processes. In particular, Wood Shapers specialises in the development of large-scale prefabricated projects whose main material is wood, the only construction material with a positive carbon footprint for the environment. Wood Shapers is a developer-builder with project design, development and building expertise, including engineering studies and prefabrication of timber structures. By reforming the construction industry through an integrated process, Wood Shapers builds sustainable, pleasant and healthy spaces faster and more efficiently.

<https://www.woodshapers.com/>

About BPC

A major player in the construction sector, BPC builds and renovates structures of all sizes in Brussels and Wallonia for private tenders and public procurement. Every collaboration entered by BPC rests on lasting relationships, based on trust, quality and partnership. Our teams aim for operational excellence and look for all the sustainable and innovative solutions to complete your projects on time and on budget.

For more than 150 years, BPC has contributed to the changing urban environment by providing sustainable and innovative construction solutions that meet the challenges of our society. As a class 8 general contractor, BPC thus boasts a large portfolio of references in Brussels and Wallonia.

<https://www.bpc.be/>

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