

PRESS RELEASE

BolognaFiere and AIEL enter into a ten-year partnership to advance BeFire and the forest-wood-energy sector

The agreement supports the long-term growth of the new trade fair dedicated to biomass energy and home wood and pellet heating, scheduled in Bologna for 10 to 12 February 2027

Bologna, 4 June 2026 – BolognaFiere and AIEL – Italian Agroforestry Energy Association – announce the signing of a ten-year strategic agreement aimed at supporting the development of the forest-wood-energy supply chain and consolidating the positioning of BeFire, the new trade fair dedicated to thermal renewable energy and home biomass heating, scheduled at the Bologna exhibition centre for 10 to 12 February 2027.

The agreement aims to establish a long-term project capable of enhancing the economic, environmental and technological role of a strategically important sector for Italy, fostering dialogue between businesses, institutions, the research community and professional operators.

The collaboration between BolognaFiere and AIEL includes the development of an extensive conference and knowledge-sharing programme, the direct involvement of member companies, and the promotion of in-depth initiatives on the topics of innovation, sustainability and energy transition.

As part of the agreement, BolognaFiere will also commission AIEL, during 2026, to carry out a socioeconomic study of the sector, a market analysis and a series of thematic reports on the forest-wood-energy supply chains. These tools will help support dialogue with institutions, stakeholders and economic operators, providing reliable data, analysis and expert content to accompany the sector's evolution.

Joint activity will focus on:

- encouraging company participation in the first edition of BeFire, creating new business and networking opportunities;
- promoting scientific and educational content on the contribution of woody biomass to achieving decarbonisation targets;
- developing opportunities for institutional dialogue, training and professional development for supply chain operators;
- enhancing the role of sustainable forest management and thermal renewable energy in the country's energy transition.

"With this agreement," declares Gianpiero Calzolari, President of BolognaFiere, "we are laying the foundations for a long-term strategic collaboration that aims to make BeFire the leading national and international hub for the forest-wood-energy sector. Together with AIEL, we want to build a platform for dialogue, innovation and development capable of showcasing the sector's industrial and technological excellence and contributing to the debate on the challenges of sustainability and energy security."

"The partnership with BolognaFiere," declares Marco Bussone, President of AIEL, "represents an important opportunity to strengthen dialogue between businesses, institutions and supply chain operators. BeFire can become a key event for promoting accurate information on the role of thermal renewable energy and for highlighting the contribution that the forest-wood-energy sector makes to the ecological transition, sustainable forest management and regional development."

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