European Paper Industry Already Tackling Illegal Logging

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) welcomed the strong political commitment of the European Parliament to address the issue of illegal logging in Europe shown in its vote yesterday on the Caroline Lucas report. However the European pulp and paper industries are already active in this field and have systems in place to ensure the legality of wood used in Europe today.

CEPI has developed a voluntarily code of conduct which has been endorsed by all of its members and which ensures that chain of custody, traceability and tracking systems are in place. This initiative has already minimised the imports of illegal wood into the EU and the industry is committed to maintain its stringent approach to ensure this continues.

“This vote shows the importance of the issue to the EU’s political commitment to good forest governance. The Pulp and paper industry also takes its responsibility in this field very seriously” said Bernard de Galembert, Forest director at CEPI. “For the result of this vote to be successful we need to ensure that the final text of this legislation is proportionate and ensures effectiveness whilst recognising the work already being done and the systems currently in place” he added.

“WWF in its report ‘Illegal Wood for the European Market’ (July 2008) acknowledged the work being done by our industry to help combat illegal logging and recognised that our tracking systems are among the most efficient currently available” he continued.

“The figures quoted by Caroline Lucas today concerning the volume of illegal wood entering the EU seem high and we are convinced that estimating the quantity of illegal timber used by the EU is extremely difficult but believe that the voluntary measures taken by the industry will lead inevitably to a significant decrease.” He concluded.

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Note to the Editor


Legal Logging Code of Conduct for the Paper Industry
http://www.cepi.org/content/default.asp?PageID=558&DocID=33
Available in English, German, Spanish, Czech, Slovakian, Russian, Finnish, Portuguese and Italian.

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry’s achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the member’s business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general. Through CEPI, the paper industry increases its visibility and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions on behalf of the industry.

Through its 18 member countries (16 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 800 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1200 paper mills. Together they represent 27% of world production.